

## Turkish police battle protesters

ANKARA (R) — Turkish riot police broke up a rally in the capital Ankara on Tuesday, freely using batons, water cannon and dogs to beat back crowds enraged after Istanbul riots in which at least 23 people died. Armoured cars chased demonstrators down Ankara's Ataturk boulevard to Kizilay Square, sending protesters including many women fleeing down side streets. The Ankara incidents followed two days of rioting in a district of Istanbul inhabited by members of the minority Alawite Muslim community, who oppose a recent upsurge in religious fundamentalism (see page 2). The Gazi neighbourhood erupted in riots on Sunday night after an attack by gunmen on Alawite coffeehouses, killing one patron. The gunmen killed the driver of the taxi they seized for the raid. The Ankara rally was called to protest against the attack as well as the death and destruction that followed. Clashes broke out when police stopped protesters from marching on the parliament building. The demonstrators, armed with sticks and stones, tried to storm the police barricade. In the fighting that ensued the injured, many with head wounds, tried to escape from the melee or sat helplessly on the sidewalk.

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## King, Major discuss peace process, bilateral relations

### Crown Prince says Jordan seeks to institutionalise peace, calls for free trade zone from Atlantic to Gulf

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and British Prime Minister John Major on Tuesday held talks on Jordanian-British relations, the Middle East peace process and the European and British role in advancing the four-year-old Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

The talks were held shortly after Mr. Major's arrival here on a short visit widely seen as a reflection of the strong relations between the United Kingdom and Jordan.

Mr. Major, who arrived here after visiting Israel and the Palestinian territories, was expected to brief King Hussein on the talks he held with Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

Also expected to be reviewed was the situation of Iraq in the wake of the Gulf crisis and the conflict in former Yugoslavia.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan also held talks with Mr. Major and a delegation accompanying him that includes chief executives of several major British companies.

Crown Prince Hassan briefed the delegation on Jordan's vision of regional development and cooperation with Europe, particularly the United Kingdom.

The Crown Prince called for a free trade zone from the

Atlantic to the Gulf, an area that includes 370 million people with a combined gross domestic product of \$1 trillion.

Underlining the importance of peace-building and the role Europe could play in it, the Crown Prince said: "For peace-building to succeed, it must be institutionalised, and this surely will help achieve the trilateral partnerships between governments, international business and finance institutions."

"Jordan is working systematically to evolve the existing architecture of the peace process into peace institutions," he said.

"Although the mass of population has led to imbalances, the total population of 11 million in the core area — Israel, Jordan and the

Palestinian territories — represents too small a market in today's globalised world," he noted. "A free trade area ... eventually a common market from the Atlantic to the Gulf ... represents a total population of about 250 million people. Including Turkey and Iran the market size will increase to 370 million with a combined GDP approaching \$1 trillion."

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"We think it is right from the point of view of the countries and we actually think it is right from the point of view of creating the right sort of market to encourage the investment that is necessary."

The British prime minister, paying his first visit to Jordan, also underlined the need to "encourage private sector involvement in the region..."

The Crown Prince said earlier that Jordanian-European and Jordanian-British cooperation could be a good starting point for regional economic integration.

He also spoke about the proposed Middle East development bank which is expected to be announced at the Amman economic summit scheduled to be held in October. The proposed institution, he said, should work on filling gaps in development and reduce the economic disparities among the region's countries and peoples through joint projects that serve the cause of peace.

Noting that Jordan and the European Union would start talks this year on an agreement that would give the Kingdom 10 years to adopt international standards, the Crown Prince said this warranted the establishment of training centres and developing Jordanian manpower. He referred to ideas to establish free trade zones to attract investment to Jordan.

These ideas and proposals are expected to be discussed in detail at the Amman summit.

The Crown Prince's meeting with Mr. Major and the delegation was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, His Royal Highness Prince Talal, the Crown Prince's advisor Mohammad Saqqaf, Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb, Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and the British ambassador in Amman and the Jordanian ambassador in London.

Mr. Major, who is accompanied by Trade Minister Richard Needham, was received upon arrival at Marka airport by Sharif Zeid and senior officials.

Mr. Needham and Mr. Abul Ragheb also attended the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the British and Jordanian private sectors (see page 2).

Mr. Major and Sharif Zeid will hold a formal round of talks at the Prime Ministry Wednesday morning. Mr. Major is expected to announce the donation of equipment worth \$3.3 million to Jordan and awards and scholarships for Jordanian students in Britain.

The British prime minister and the delegation were scheduled to leave around midday.

Commenting on the British leader's visit, Foreign Minis-

ter Abdul Karim Kabariti told the Jordan Times: "Jordan hopes that it would lead to enhanced Jordanian-British cooperation as well as the consolidation and strengthening of European and British roles in the Middle

East peace process."

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His Majesty King Hussein shakes hands with British Prime Minister John Major as he receives the British leader at the Raghadan Palace in Amman on Tuesday (photo by Youssef Allen)

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## Israel, Syria to resume talks

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Israel and Syria have agreed to resume direct peace talks at ambassadorial level within the next few days, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced Tuesday.

Mr. Christopher announced the breakthrough after a second day of talks with President Hafez Al Assad aimed at ending the stalemate in the peace process.

"Direct contacts will be resumed" in the next several days, he said as he wound up a week-long Middle East shuttle.

He said the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors to the U.S. "will reengage directly in Washington under the auspices of the U.S." and would be working on "security issues as well as on other issues."

Full bilateral negotiations have been broken off since the Hebron massacre in February of last year. A meeting between their chiefs-of-staff last December proved inconclusive and there have been no contacts since.

The U.S. coordinator for the Middle East, Dennis Ross, will return to the region in coming weeks to discuss the eventual resumption of direct talks between the two countries' chiefs-of-staff, and also security arrangements for a possible peace deal centred on the Golan Heights, he added.

Military experts and army chiefs would meet at the "appropriate time."

Mr. Christopher met Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in occupied Jerusalem earlier Tuesday before returning here for the final leg of his week-long Middle East shuttle.

For hours it had seemed as if the arrangement would fall apart. But Mr. Christopher made the announcement with evident relief at the end of an eight-day peacemaking trip to the region.

"It's turned out to be one

of the most satisfying trips I have made to the Middle East," he said.

The talks will be in Washington. A senior U.S. official said Israel made no "concessions" to get them reopened.

At the outset, ambassadors Itamar Rabinovich of Israel and Walid Al Mouallem of Syria will handle the negotiations. They will be joined by military technicians and then the chiefs of staff, Mr. Christopher said.

Mr. Ross will take part in the talks.

The United States would not put forward proposals in the talks but may offer "suggestions," an official said. "These will be tough negotiations," he added.

Mr. Christopher said he expected the talks to be marked by "give and take, and bargaining."

"Both ambassadors have the full confidence of their leaders," the U.S. secretary said.

He did not announce a starting date but said it would be "in the next couple of days."

The talks are likely to centre on the kinds of security arrangements to be installed after Israel's likely pullback on the Golan Heights.

On Sunday, Mr. Christopher and President Assad discussed such measures as creation of demilitarised zones, depletion of Israeli and Syrian troops in other zones and installation of early-warning systems to guard against surprise attack.

The delay forced Mr. Christopher to stay in Damascus overnight and to cancel his participation in Washington ceremonies and talks Wednesday involving King Hassan of Morocco.

He said the crew of his U.S. Air Force jet was required to rest, making a Tuesday night departure for Washington impossible.

The format for the next negotiating round differs

from the last one.

(Continued on page 7)

## Princess Basma optimistic despite non-binding Copenhagen resolutions

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — While no binding resolutions were taken at the United Nations summit on world development that concluded last week in Copenhagen, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma is optimistic about the future.

"It does not help to be negative. We should try to do our best and fulfill our roles individually and nationally," said the Princess, who returned home Saturday from the summit in the Danish capital. "It is part of a process that takes time to evolve."

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Tuesday, Princess Basma underlined the importance of the resolutions and their role in raising awareness and highlighting pressing issues such as poverty and unemployment. Most important of all, she said, is that issues that hamper development and threaten stability have been highlighted and discussed.

"But the benefits are in-

direct and the results are long-term," she said. "It is up to the countries themselves to keep up the momentum."

Princess Basma, chairperson of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), attended the international conference in her capacity as a representative of international Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and as a United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) human development ambassador.

According to Princess Basma, enormous efforts and pressures should be exerted on the national and international levels to achieve social justice and social development. NGOs have a leading role to play.

"NGOs have a very effective role in mobilising public opinion," she said. "In Jordan, NGOs role is changing and ameliorating."

But the Princess emphasised that eliminating poverty and unemployment should be accompanied by efforts to

build peace and social justice.

"To eradicate poverty, we will need to reconsider our traditional concepts of peace, security and stability. We need a commitment to reduce and halt investment in arms (and) to divert (that) to investment in people," Princess Basma said. "Social development has a direct relationship with peace," she said.

There are an estimated 1.3 billion people living in poverty around the world. In Jordan, 21 per cent of the population live under the line of poverty, according to statistics released by the ministry of planning in 1993.

Princess Basma also spoke on women's role and their role in alleviating problems of poverty and unemployment. Although she said there was no discrimination against women in Jordan, she pointed out that there were various legislations pertaining to the status of women that need to be rectified.

"There is lots of support from the government and the parliament to improve the



status of women in the Jordanian laws and legislations," the Princess said. "We are making good headway, but changing attitudes needs time."

Princess Basma, president of the Jordanian National committee for women, will head Jordan's official delegation to the conference on women that will be held in Beijing in September.

The U.N. summit for social development drew 118 heads of state and government and representatives from 184 countries in the largest gathering of world leaders in history. The conference, which ended Sunday, mainly aimed at adopting a plan of action to eradicate poverty.

## Jordan looks forward to King's visit to U.S.

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior official said Tuesday Jordan was "comfortable with the atmosphere" of the talks which U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held with His Majesty King Hussein and other officials during his short visit to the Kingdom Monday.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti stressed the importance of continuing talks between Jordan and the U.S., noting that King Hussein will visit Washington before the end of the month while U.S. Vice President Al Gore is expected here in few days.

At a joint press conference with King Hussein Monday evening, Mr. Christopher said such exchange of visits reflects the closeness of the Jordanian-U.S. partnership for the attainment of comprehensive peace in the region.

Mr. Kabariti said he appreciated the fact that Mr. Christopher's current tour of the Middle East, which took him to Egypt, Syria, Israel, the Palestine self-rule areas and Saudi Arabia, is the 13th to the area and comes at a time when the peace process is going through a crucial stage.

Mr. Christopher reassured on Monday that Washington will honour its economic commitments to Jordan and will try to meet the Kingdom's security and military needs, adding that the U.S. recognises the important regional security role of the country.

But one political observer said that Mr. Christopher brought nothing new with him in Amman about practical steps to ensure that the Kingdom will get the debt write-off that the U.S. administration promised for this year.

The observer said the question of debt relief is now in the hands of Congress and not in the hands of the administration.

To the dismay of many Jordanians, a congressional

panel last week slashed to \$50 million from \$75 million the amount of debt write-off proposed by the U.S. administration to Jordan for fiscal year 1995.

Two key U.S. senators were Monday expected to present the Senate with a bid that would have allowed the administration to meet its commitment to Jordan. But a source who asked not be named said filibustering in the Senate for domestic American reasons delayed the presentation of the bill, which, he said, is now expected to be taken up by the Senate on Saturday.



## Turkey's Alawites caught in violence

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — Turkey's Alawite population is a progressive Islamic group that has supported democracy and secularism.

Two Alawites were killed Sunday in a low-income neighbourhood following armed attacks on four coffee-houses and a bakery frequented by the community.

Eight others died Monday during clashes with police when angry protesters took to the streets to protest what they claimed was lack of support from security forces.

The latest incidents came nearly two years after a deadly attack on Alawites raised sectarian tensions in the country. Thirty-seven people were killed when Muslim radicals set fire to a hotel, where a group of writers, poets and singers were staying to celebrate an Alawite festival in the central city of Siwas in July 1993.

The most dramatic sectarian fighting was in 1978 when 104 people died in rioting between Alawites and Sunni radicals in the eastern Kahramanmaraş province.

Alawites are considered a liberal group, associated with leftist or social democratic movements.

Further confrontations erupted between the Alawite community and radical Muslims after a fundamentalist party won the mayoralty in local elections last year.

Alawites are traced to Anatolian Shiites, who were direct descendants of Central Asian Turks. The name is derived from an early Islamic sect, Ali.

The Alawites preserved Turkish literature and music in contrast to the Arabic influence of arts and language on Ottoman culture.

The Anatolian Alawites maintained some of the characteristics of "shamanism," the original religion of Central Asian tribes rather than the complete Islamic dogma of the Sunnis.

But for centuries the two denominations lived side by side in peace, even though the Sunnis looked upon the Alawites as heretics. Both sides largely avoided intermarriage and in most cases kept to separate neighbourhoods.

Alawites make up a third of Turkey's 60 million population.

After the emergency meeting, the cabinet issued a

statement saying, "our citizens should not allow themselves to be provoked. The attacks are targeting our national unity, peace, democracy and the secular state."

"The authors of the attacks will certainly be found," it added.

The rioting started late on Sunday when Alawites marched through the streets to protest an attack by gunmen who killed two people and wounded 15 in a drive-by shooting on Alawite coffee-shops.

In the rioting that followed up to three people were killed and 26 injured, including 11 policemen.

Early on Monday protesters started to regroup, chanting "Death to fascism" and "Police are murderers" as they marched towards hundreds of police and gendarmes at the end of the main street.

Many rioters were Alawite Kurds from southeast Turkey, where a 10-year war by separatist Kurdish guerrillas has led to allegations of massive abuses by security forces.

During three tense hours the two sides faced each other across a row of armoured personnel carriers, the sound of gunfire — its origin unclear — occasionally echoed through the area.

Protesters, among them women and teenagers, refused to heed security personnel who tried to persuade them to disperse and some teenagers hurled petrol bombs at police.

Police stormed the crowd after young men climbed on an armoured car and opened a high pressure water hose. Shooting their guns from shoulder level, police chased demonstrators, who ran into narrow side streets.

After both sides regrouped police opened fire again, this time storming the area from both sides.

"They will try and blame this on the (Kurdish guerrillas), saying they provoked the attack, but it was the police who tried to kill us," said a 17-year-old boy, his hands bloody from carrying a wounded friend.

Turkish television reported eight dead on Monday after clashes on Sunday that killed up to three people.

Ambulances loaded up people whose faces and arms dripped with blood while police searched the area. An occasional gunshot echoed through empty streets.

An elderly woman in tears said: "We give our sons to the military, we pay taxes and this is how they repay us."



MAJOR IN GAZA: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (left) greets British Prime Minister John Major at the Beit Lahia crossing point between Israel and the Gaza Strip on Tuesday. Mr. Major was the first Western European head of state to visit the Gaza Strip since it became autonomous (see page one) (AFP photo)

## Kurd factionalism hits anti-Saddam effort

RAWANDIZ, Iraq (R) — The hilltop town of Rawandiz, tucked into northern Iraq near the Turkish and Iranian borders, has felt the full fury of the Kurdish factionalism that threatens to unravel their coalition against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

On the eve of Monday's Security Council vote on extending U.N. sanctions against Baghdad, the town has emerged as the latest flashpoint for the Kurdish rivalries tearing at Western-protected northern Iraq.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) controls Rawandiz from the heights, but the town is being slowly strangled by surrounding Peshmerga guerrillas of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), freshly allied with the pro-Iranian Kurdish Hizbollah.

"The fighting is more severe now. There is more intent to kill Peshmergas (fighters)," said a Western aid worker and former military man. Most lorries are barred, squeezing supplies of food and medicine, and half the population of 13,000 has fled. Shelling is a nightly event. "Rawandiz is suffering

from three embargoes — the embargo of the U.N., the embargo of Saddam Hussein and the embargo of the KDP," said Saman Salahuddin Sinjari, who got KDP permission to deliver U.N. polio vaccine to the town hospital at the weekend.

The hospital director keeps an impressive collection of spent shells and fragments of Katyusha rockets swept up each morning from the hospital grounds. One shell pierced the ceiling of the women's ward scattering plaster and shattering all windows.

The stand-off at Rawandiz and other points in northern Iraq reflect the deep-seated rivalries that have long plagued Kurdish political aspirations.

But the recent upsurge in fighting amongst the Kurds looks likely to drain the internal anti-Saddam effort of much of its impetus, four years after Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war sparked anti-Saddam rebellions in the Kurdish north and the largely Shi'ite south. The north is protected by the Western air power of Operation Provide Comfort, based in southern

Turkey. "This (fighting) has severely damaged the international credibility of the Kurds," said an official of the Iraqi National Congress (INC) which groups all major Kurdish and Arab opposition to President Saddam, including the PUK and the KDP.

"The (Iraqi) people are fed up, the donors are not happy. The international aid effort is not what it was one or two years ago," the official said in an interview in Erbil, the administrative centre of northern Iraq.

He fears this week's expected agreement to extend U.N. sanctions for another 60 days could be one of the last. Already, pressure is mounting on Washington and London to ease their demands that the embargo imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait be kept in place.

Tension between the two main Kurdish guerrilla groups has existed since the mid-1960s.

At the heart of their latest squabble is the PUK's occupation in January of Erbil, meant to be the shared regional capital, and the KDP's control over the "tax"

on Turkish truck drivers crossing Kurdish lines to trade food and medicine in Mosul for limited quantities of Iraqi petrol.

Each side accuses the other of embezzling public funds.

A bombing campaign inside KDP-held territory, seen by some Kurds and foreign observers as PUK handiwork, has further aggravated tensions. Would-be mediators, including the INC, say the two sides are not even talking.

Foreign observers note the Kurdish disarray means they are a long way from taking on a well-equipped Iraqi army whose strength is estimated at 350,000 troops.

"They're going to take the Mosul-Baghdad highway — and secure it?" sceptically asked a senior U.N. official in the region.

He said the two top Kurdish factions could likely field no more than 10,000 fighters each, with the INC having another 2,000 or so lightly-armed Arab fighters.

And fielding even such a modest force against Iraqi troops would require a level of unity unthinkable under the present circumstances.

## U.S. voices concern at continuing Algeria strife

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. administration expressed concern Monday at the continuing spiral of violence in Algeria, but said it had no plans now to shut its embassy doors.

"The situation in Algeria is not one which gives us a great deal of confidence," said State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelley. "Genuine political dialogue seems to be elusive."

Ms. Shelley said that Algeria's security situation would remain under review, and that Washington would continue to consult with allies on the issue.

Asked about politically motivated killings, Ms. Shelley said "the numbers certainly have gone up," adding that the United States had reduced its embassy staff in Algiers.

But she said the United States had no plans now to shut its embassy there.

Still, Ms. Shelley said the security situation had affected the embassy's work, as the "fairly skeletal (U.S.) presence" there had made it difficult for embassy staff to keep up with the visa processing workload.

On Monday, six Islamic

extremists kidnapped a girl from her school, then slashed her throat near the school gate, the official APS news agency reported.

The slaying was one of several reports of gruesome attacks on women since Friday, the deadline set by Islamic extremists demanding that female sympathisers be freed from jail.

Fatima Ghodbane, 15, was killed outside the Mohammed Lazhar School near Bida, south of Algiers, APS said.

The agency also confirmed a newspaper report of the assassination Saturday of two sisters, 18 and 21, killed in front of their father and 13-year-old sister by gunmen who forced their way inside the family home.

One of the girls was the fiancée of a policeman, the newspaper *Liberte* reported. An older sister, also fiancée of a policeman, was killed last year, the paper said.

The Armed Islamic Group has threatened to attack the wives of police and army officers in retribution for the refusal of the military-backed regime to free women jailed as sympathisers to the militants.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Argentine businessmen visit Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A delegation of Argentine businessmen began talks with Iraqi officials Monday on future economic ties between the two countries once U.N. sanctions against Baghdad are lifted. The delegation, headed by the head of the Argentine chamber of commerce, Alfredo Alberto, is the first from a Latin American country to visit Iraq since the 1991 Gulf war. The businessmen met with Iraqi Trade Ministry officials on Monday and were holding talks with industry ministry representatives on Tuesday, a member of the party told AFP.

### Rafsanjani to visit South Africa

TEHRAN (AFP) — President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Monday accepted an invitation from President Nelson Mandela to visit South Africa. Iran's official news agency IRNA reported. South African Energy Minister P. Botha delivered the invitation, it said, without specifying when the visit would take place. Mr. Rafsanjani told Mr. Botha that Iran wanted to develop economic ties with South Africa in all fields. Mr. Botha, who arrived in Tehran on Saturday, has met several officials to discuss ways to develop oil and bilateral cooperation in oil, mining, industry, technology transfer and education, IRNA said. Pretoria is interested in Iran's oil while Tehran would like to use South Africa's refineries and stocking capacity.

### Rabbi wants to discuss 'ceasefire' with Yassin

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — An Israeli rabbi on Monday asked Police Minister Moshe Shahal for permission to meet Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmad Yassin in jail to discuss a "ceasefire" between the militants and the Jewish state. Mehabem Fruman told Israel radio: "I want to talk to Sheikh Yassin to propose a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel." Mr. Fruman, who lives in a settlement in the occupied West Bank, has for several years called for dialogue between "religious Jews and Palestinian Muslims" to move forward the peace process. In the past he said he has held talks with Hamas leaders. Sheikh Yassin, arrested in May 1989, was sentenced to life imprisonment by an Israeli military court in October 1991 after being found guilty of murder, inciting violence and possessing weapons.

### Student confesses to killing Israeli

KIEV (AP) — A university student confessed to killing an Israeli envoy who came to his apartment to complain about loud music, police said Monday. Ukrainian authorities said the 21-year-old man's confession convinced them that the crime was not politically motivated. "There was no political content to this incident — there wasn't and there cannot be," Interior Ministry spokesman Oleksandr Ivashchenko told journalists Monday. The suspect, whose name was not released, was arrested Sunday morning and charged with manslaughter in connection with the death of Shimon Feingold. Feingold was an Israeli envoy of the Jewish Agency, a quasi-governmental group responsible for bringing and absorbing immigrants in Israel. Feingold was discovered dead in the stairwell of his Kiev apartment building just after 4 p.m. Saturday. While in police custody, the student confessed to hitting Feingold in the head after he came to the student's fourth-floor apartment, just above the Israeli's, complaining of loud music and dancing. Police said the blow caused Feingold to slip on the stairs, fatally hitting his head on a step.

## Iraqis suffer with expensive food, shortages of medicine

By Eileen Alt Powell  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The growing stacks of used furniture at the al-Bakr market in downtown Baghdad attest to the desperation of Iraqi families trying to make ends meet.

Men carry in dining room sets, sofas, writing desks — even the occasional kitchen sink — to auction off for needed cash.

"Even if I work very hard, it won't give me enough money for my family," said Badr Ajil, a 39-year-old day labourer, as he stood beside a wooden cupboard he wanted to sell. "We need money to eat and buy medicine."

Thousands are in trouble as runaway inflation pushes food prices up almost daily while the value of the Iraqi dinar plunges.

Hospitals are so critically short of medicine that many people go untreated. Pharmacies are overwhelmed with people desperate for such life-sustaining drugs as insulin for diabetes or inhalers for asthma.

Children go to school without books, paper or pencils. The root of the problem is the U.N. Security Council sanctions, imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The embargo prohibits Iraq from exporting oil, its economic mainstay, until it has complied with U.N. ceasefire resolutions to dismantle its weapons of mass destruction.

The council was scheduled to meet Monday to review the sanctions.

Iraq says it has complied with all the U.N. demands

and that the embargo should be lifted. But the United States believes it has the votes to maintain the sanctions, charging that Iraq has not revealed all the necessary information about its weapons.

Iraq has been offered a one-time sale of oil worth \$1.6 billion to raise funds for humanitarian use, but it has refused on the grounds that the U.N.-supervised deal would infringe on its sovereignty.

The political rhetoric means little to Ajil, who has a wife, mother and seven children to feed.

His monthly income of about 10,000 Iraqi dinars is worth about \$9, at the black-market rate, and barely covers the cost of food for a week, he says.

The "official" exchange

rate of \$3.3 to the dinar is now totally ignored.

The dinar has depreciated from about eight to the dollar after the Gulf war to 300 six months ago to 1,100 now.

Food prices, meanwhile, have risen so high that the average family eats no meat.

The government's ration programme of flour, sugar, cooking oil, rice and tea does not begin to provide minimum nutrition.

Doctors say that many mothers are so malnourished that they cannot breastfeed their babies. Powdered milk at 2.750 Iraqi dinars (\$2.50) is out of reach, so infants are fed sugar water and quickly develop signs of both protein and vitamin deficiencies.

Zahra Karim, a 50-year-old widow, was buying lettuce, tomatoes and potatoes for Sunday dinner at the

Salam Square outdoor vegetable market.

She has not been able to afford meat or fish for months, and vegetables are becoming dear.

In just the last six months, the price of a kilogramme of tomatoes has tripled to 400 dinars (36 cents), while fish and lentils have doubled to 500 dinars (45 cents).

"I just hope that the prices go down and the sanctions lift," she said.

She has been selling not only furniture but also clothing to supplement her pension of 1,000 dinars (91 cents) a month.

At the nearby Saddam Children's Hospital, Iraq's largest, doctors are at a loss to provide adequate treatment.

Medication is in such short supply that "we give accord-

ing to what we have, not according to what the patient needs," said Dr. Ismail Qassam, the hospital director.

They can do nothing for leukaemia and other cancers and often have no antibiotics to treat children suffering from pneumonia, meningitis or other diseases.

The hospital staff sees 100 children a day suffering from malnutrition, and the death rate has tripled since the Gulf war, Dr. Qassam said.

In the emergency room on Sunday, four-month-old Ali Shaker was panting in his tiny oxygen mask. Doctors had given him a drug to ease the effects of pneumonia, but lacked the necessary antibiotic for proper care.

"We're giving him oxygen — and praying God will help him," said staff physician Mohammad Maher.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77211-19

PROGRAMME TWO  
17:40 Les Raisons Laveurs  
17:50 Envoyé Spécial "Magazine"  
19:00 News in French  
19:30 The Bold and the Beautiful  
19:45 E-S-M6  
20:30 The Marvellous Machine  
21:10 Berlin Break  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Frim  
22:50 Snowy River  
23:10 Keeping Up Appearance

### PRAYER TIMES

09:28 Fajr  
05:43 Sunrise (Sunrise) Duhur  
12:45 Dhuhr  
15:09 Asr  
17:47 Maghrib  
19:24 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Settlement Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 623785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 677400  
By the Side Church Tel. 661757  
Tomaszewska Church Tel. 622666  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625451  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

### Argentinian Catholic Church Tel.

771331.

Argentinian Orthodox Church Tel.

775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

St. Ann International Church Tel.

625226.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.

824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Khamsin weather conditions will prevail throughout the day with winds southwesterly moderate. A cold air mass will affect the Kingdom in the evening with rainfall expected in different regions. In Amman, it will be relatively warm and dusty becoming cloudy and rainy in the afternoon.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman ..... 10/23

Aqaba ..... 13/28

Deirat ..... 7/25

Jordan Valley ..... 13/27

Yesterday's high temperatures:

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 24 Aqaba 26. Humidity readings: Amman 13 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mukhlis Mazharah ..... 820425  
Dr. Ramzi Mzawi ..... 794788  
Dr. Khalil Rifa ..... 797780  
Dr. Ahmad Othman ..... 783384  
Fire pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637055  
Najmeh pharmacy ..... 626372  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 626730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shameis pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najmeh pharmacy ..... 626372  
Najmeh pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Ahmad Qanu ..... 636381  
Al Quds pharmacy ..... 985417

ZARQA:  
Dr. Fawaz Hamdallah ..... 903644  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 617101  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 893590  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints ..... 797467  
Amman Municipality Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Husseini Medical Centre 81381/32  
Khaldil Maternity, J. Amn ..... 64281/6  
Aldah Maternity, J. Amn ..... 64241/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shamsi ..... 66417/4  
Shameis Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 66727/7  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Italiya, Al-Muasher ..... 77110/2  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf ..... 77511/25  
Army, Marj ..... 89161/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674135  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)900560  
Al-Hikma Hospital ..... (09)990990  
Rm Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)990990  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)725555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)727775  
Rm Al-Nadfa Hospital ..... (02)747100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)514111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:35 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
06:35 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
06:55 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
09:05 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
15:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
16:45 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
18:10 ..... Madrid, Geneva (RJ)  
18:10 ..... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)  
18:20 ..... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
18:20 ..... Brussels, Paris (RJ)  
18:20 ..... London, Rome (RJ)  
18:20 ..... Paris, Rome (RJ)  
08:10 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
08:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35 ..... Cairo (MS)  
10:30 ..... Sana'a (Y)  
10:30 ..... Jeddah (SV)  
14:20 ..... Algiers (AF)  
15:40 ..... Larnaca (CY)  
19:05 ..... Karachi (PK)  
20:20 ..... Beirut (OE)  
23:05 ..... Athens (OA)  
23:20 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

### HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ..... 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus ..... 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus ..... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman ..... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple ..... 700/500  
Banana ..... 600  
Banana (Mukammal) ..... 620  
Cabbage ..... 100/50  
Carrot ..... 100/50  
Cauliflower ..... 170/100  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 200/100  
Eggplant ..... 140/80  
Garlic ..... 120/80  
Green beans ..... 220/120  
Lemon ..... 340/160  
Marrow (large) ..... 90/30  
Marrow (small) ..... 140/80  
Onion (green) ..... 220/120  
Onion (dry) ..... 400/250  
Orange ..... 450/350  
Peas ..... 300/400  
Pepper (hot) ..... 300/400  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 320/220  
Potato ..... 280/180  
Spinach ..... 120/60  
String Beans ..... 550/400  
Tomato ..... 200/100



# Queen becomes president of United World Colleges

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United World Colleges (UWC) organisation Tuesday announced that Her Majesty Queen Noor and South African President Nelson Mandela have accepted to become "President of the UWC" and "President of the UWC International Council" respectively, a Royal Court statement said.

Queen Noor will succeed Britain's Prince Charles as president of the UWC, the statement said.

The UWC is an international educational programme for young people between the ages of 16 and 19. It consists of 8 colleges situated in Wales, Canada, Singapore, the U.S., Swaziland, Italy, Venezuela and Hong Kong, and currently enrolls 3,200 students from more than 100 countries.

Most of the students at the UWC study for the Diploma of the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO), which is a pre-university examination.

Students are chosen on merit regardless of race, creed, colour, background,

# Meeting on industry pollution concerns results in creation of programme panels

AMMAN (Petra) — Environmental conditions in areas surrounding the cement factories in Fubeis and Rashadiyeh were the main issues under discussion at a meeting chaired by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Nader Thuheirat at the cement factory in Fubeis Tuesday.

Participants at the meeting decided to set up two committees, one to steer and direct environmental programmes, and one to follow up recommendations issued by a team of German experts recently.

The first panel will be chaired by Mr. Thuheirat and will include as members Ministry Secretary General Rashdan Al Rashdan, Director of the Environment Department Saleh Al Sharaa and Director General of the Cement Factories Company Hatem Halawani.

The second will include as members Mr. Sharaa and representatives of the department and the company.

It was decided that the follow-up committee will commence its meetings at the beginning of next week and will present periodical reports to the steering committee which will meet at least once a month.

Mr. Thuheirat stressed at the meeting his ministry's keenness to protect the environment in the areas surrounding the two factories.

He said directives by His Majesty King Hussein prompt the ministry to protect the environment and fight pollution by preparing plans and programmes targeting industrial areas.

The minister commended efforts exerted by the Cement Factories Company to protect the environment and its cooperation with the ministry in preparing studies and research and carrying out environmental programmes in Fubeis and Rashadiyeh.

Mr. Halawani, at the outset of the meeting reviewed measures taken by the company to improve the environmental conditions in areas surrounding the factories and its future plans in this regard.

He said that at the beginning of the 1980s the company started to implement programmes aimed at developing anti-pollution systems and equipment in cooperation with local and international organisations and companies.

Mr. Halawani said an integrated anti-pollution programme was initiated by the company last year, noting that the first stage of the programme will cost the company about JD 32 million.



lieutenant Abdel Qader Ammarine (left foreground) pose with the Jordanian Armed Forces Orchestra and Jean-Philippe Rouchon

# Jordanian Armed Forces Orchestra to perform with French conductor

By Jean-Claude Elias  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian Armed Forces Orchestra (AFO) will give a concert of classical music Thursday evening, March 16, at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) theatre.

It will be the first time that an orchestra performs under the baton of French conductor Jean-Philippe Rouchon.

Mr. Rouchon has been working with the AFO for a less than a year now and will remain in Jordan, under agreement with the army, an unspecified period of time.

One exotic aspect of their operation is the language French musician uses to communicate with the Arab musicians — German! In many of the orchestra's members had previously sent by the army to Syria where they spent five years studying and performing.

Meanwhile, Arab and Muslim officials condemned Israeli efforts to consolidate control over Arab East Jerusalem.

Delegates at a symposium in Jerusalem condemned Israeli "annexation" of land for settlements and accused the government of trying to change the city's demographic composition.

They also urged Arab and Muslim nations to resist plans by some countries to move their embassies to Jerusalem.

# rael-PLO election talks start

(Continued from page 1)

for settlements and accused the government of trying to change the city's demographic composition.

They also urged Arab and Muslim nations to resist plans by some countries to move their embassies to Jerusalem.

# Jordanian, British private sectors sign document to enhance trade ties

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian and British private sectors on Tuesday signed a memo of understanding to enhance trade relations through a series of round-table discussions in various sectors.

The document was signed by London's quasi-governmental Committee for Middle East Trade (CMET) and the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA), which represents a large segment of the Kingdom's trade and industrial community.

The signing came on the fringes of a visit to Jordan by British Prime Minister John Major, who arrived here Tuesday evening on his first trip to Jordan as prime minister and accompanied by a 30-member trade delegation.

The trade delegation included chief executives of industry giants such as British Telecom, Marks and Spencer and British Gas, British Aerospace. They held a round of talks with Jordanian businessmen after the signing of the memo at a hotel here attended by British Trade Minister Richard Needham and his Jordanian counterpart Ali Abul Ragheb.

The one-page memo, signed by CMET Chairman John Hill and JBA President Hamdi Tabaa, a former Jordanian minister of trade, calls for meetings to be held among various business sectors to develop "the long-standing and historic relations" between Jordan and Britain, said Ali Yousef, director-general of the JBA.

"The agreement calls for round-table discussions exclusively grouping the various sectors that could cooperate in launching joint ventures and business," Mr. Yousef said. The meetings will be organised by the JBA and CMET.

According to official British figures, Jordan's imports from the United Kingdom were worth 114 million sterling pounds in 1994 compared with its exports to Britain of 24 million sterling pounds.

No comparative Jordanian figures were immediately available.

On Wednesday, Mr. Needham will attend a ceremony marking the marketing of British-made Rover cars in Jordan.

The formal launching of the Rover agency and distributorship in Jordan will come on Feb. 19, a British embassy spokeswoman said.

The British government as well as businessmen in general have taken a close interest in establishing ties with Jordan in the wake of the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

At least one group, British Middle East Interest Group, has also opened a regional office in Amman. The office, which will provide data and base information to both Jordanian and British businessmen, will cover not only the Kingdom but also the Palestinian territories, Syria and Iraq.

Several British consultancy firms are involved in studies on various sectors of the Jordanian economy and resources, primarily water, as well as on the Kingdom's drive to privatise the telecommunications and civil aviation sectors.

A British company is conducting a major study of the Disi underwater reservoir at a cost of £4.5 million, provided in a grant by the London government.

While in Jordan, Mr. Major will also announce the donation of British equipment worth \$3.3 million to the Kingdom. It was not immediately known whether Britain was planning any outright grant for Jordan.

The British government wrote off \$75 million of Jordan's official debts — mostly development loans — to Britain last year. Jordan's commercial debts to Britain stood at 369 million dinars (about \$550 million) at the end of 1994.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and British Prime Minister John Major at a meeting held at the Royal Palace on Tuesday (photo by Yousef Allan)

# Minister highlights principles in economic summit strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb Tuesday said the proposed strategy for the international economic summit in Amman in October is based on three main principles.

At a meeting with representatives of commercial, industrial, banking and contracting institutions at the Jordanian Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO), Mr. Abul Ragheb said these principles aim to improve Jordan's image as a good investment venue, attracting both local and foreign investors, to enhance the participation of the private sector in the national economy.

Reviewing the proposed strategy for hosting the summit, Mr. Abul Ragheb said the government has already set up national panels to prepare for this international gathering.

The summit, he said, aims to assist the North African and Middle Eastern economies through international and local organisations and to activate the role of the private sector.

It was agreed at the end of the meeting to set up a committee to represent the private sector to help arrange for the summit.

The committee includes Thabet Al Taher, Nadeem Al Mu'asher and Shabib Ammar.

# Cabinet approves agreements

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Tuesday approved several agreements signed between Jordan on the one hand and Japan, Italy, the European Investment Bank and the Kuwait-based Arab Economic and Social Development Fund on the other.

These agreements provide for offering grants to finance development projects in rural areas and the establishment of several infrastructure projects.

The Cabinet, meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, approved exchanging memos of understanding which will be signed between the Jordanian and Japanese governments on a Japanese grant totalling one million yen.

The Cabinet also approved an agreement signed between the Telecommunications Corporation and a Japanese corporation to upgrade the level of telephone links between Jordan and Japan.

The Council of Ministers also endorsed a financial protocol signed between the Jordanian and Italian governments to finance several projects, including one to develop rural areas in Irbid governorate.

In addition, the Council of Ministers approved to reallocate a loan worth 12 million European currency units (about \$15 million) presented to the Water Authority of Jordan to finance water and sewerage projects in Salt.

It also approved another agreement totalling 35 million Kuwaiti dinars (about \$100 million) signed between the government and the Kuwait-based Arab Economic and Social Development Fund to finance the second stage of the Aqaba Thermal Station project and developing the national electric grid.

Furthermore, it set up a Jordanian delegation which will participate in a conference on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which will be held in New York on April 17. The delegation will be headed by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti.

# Premier urges economic council to advance public, private sector ties

AMMAN (Petra) — The Economic Consultative Council met Tuesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker who told the council members that his government was keen to enhance cooperation between the private and public sectors and to activate the role of the private sector in the national economy in implementation of its policy statement presented to the Lower House of Parliament.

Sharif Zeid said the government and the private sector are both serving the interests of the Kingdom, noting that their duty is to work together to draw up the features of its economic future.

He urged the council members to present their views on means to enhance cooperation between the two sectors and to refrain from defending the interests of only certain sectors or factions.

After a discussion of the economic situation in the Kingdom, Finance Minister Basel Jaraneh briefed the council on progress achieved in implementing the economic reform programme, especially in the field of encouraging investments and tourism and developing economic and monetary laws and legislation.

Afterwards, participants in the meeting exchanged views on the income tax draft law and proposals to reduce taxes on companies, among other issues.

They also decided to meet monthly.

# Kabariti welcomes Saudi decision

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Tuesday welcomed a decision by Saudi Arabia to grant residence permits to wives and under-age children of Jordanians employed in "vital positions."

"We welcome and appreciate the Saudi decision and consider it a solid proof of the concern of our brothers in Saudi Arabia to provide all means of comfort to Jordanians working there," Mr. Kabariti said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

News reports have said that the Saudi decision, which ends an official policy banning the granting of residence permits to families of Jordanians working there since the Gulf war, was expected to go into effect last Saturday.

In accordance with the new decision, applications for residence permits by Jordanians will be treated like those of other nationalities according to procedures followed by Saudi embassies abroad.

Mr. Kabariti said that "Jordanian expatriates in Saudi Arabia have always been looked after by Saudi officials."

The Saudi decision also applies to Palestinians.

Unofficial estimates put at about 350,000 the number of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates in Saudi Arabia where about five million foreigners are employed.

Thousands of Jordanians and Palestinians lost their jobs in Gulf countries after the Gulf War which strained relations between these countries and Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The Gulf countries had provided a lucrative market for Jordanian labour during the oil boom of the seventies and early eighties. But less work opportunities have become available in these countries recently due to both political considerations and a shrinking of the labour market for foreigners.

About 300,000 Jordanians are estimated to have returned to the Kingdom from Gulf countries after the Gulf war, putting an extra burden on the already tight job market in Jordan.

Remittances from Jordanian expatriates, which are a major contributor to the gross national product, have dropped dramatically since the Gulf war.

## WHAT'S ON FILM

★ Film entitled "The African Queen" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

## EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by several artists entitled "Faces" at the Balqas Art Gallery, Fubeis.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Nazi Iremcelik at Alia Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of art by Rula Shukairy at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Hans Malallah at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

★ Three exhibitions of plastic art by George Edilbi, Abdullah Kamaleh, and Mohammad Majali at the Royal Cultural Centre.

## BMEIG

THE BRITISH MIDDLE EAST INTEREST GROUP  
WORKING FOR INDUSTRY  
DR. MUNIB AL-WIR  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

WELCOMES THE VISIT OF  
PRIME MINISTER THE RT HON JHON MAJOR  
AND HIS DELEGATION OF SENIOR  
REPRESENTATIVES OF BRITISH INDUSTRY.

WE AS AN INTERESTS GROUP ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT VISITS WHICH ENHANCE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND JORDAN AND ALL EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS. SUCH EFFORTS WILL IMPROVE TRADE, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STABILITY IN THE REGION AND WILL UNDERLINE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S COMMITMENT TO POSITIVE POLICIES WHICH CREATE COMMONWEALTH. WE TRUST THAT PRIME MINISTER WILL HAVE A REWARDING VISIT TO THE AREA AND WARMLY WELCOME HIS EFFORTS

## Under the patronage of H.R.H. Princess Basma Bint Talal

THE FRENCH CULTURAL CENTRE PRESENTS  
**ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**  
of THE ARMED FORCES OF JORDAN  
conductor: J.Ph. ROUCHON

Programme:

- SCHUBERT: "Unfinished Symphony"
- RAMEAU: "Second Concert"
- BRAHMS: "Hungarian Dances" No. 5, 6, 7.
- BIZET: "Second Suite: 'L' Arlésienne'"

**ROYAL CULTURAL CENTRE**  
March 16, 1995 at 8:00 p.m.  
Tickets (JD 7) available at the Royal Cultural Centre and the French Cultural Centre.



## Britain to withdraw first 700 troops from Northern Ireland

'Clinton will not press Adams to dismantle IRA arsenal'

LONDON (AFP) — Britain Tuesday said it was withdrawing 700 of its 19,000 troops stationed in Northern Ireland, a gesture seen as symbolic of reduced tensions in the province resulting from six months of truce.

"This decision has been taken solely on the basis of the operational judgment of the security forces' commanders," said Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew. "It reflects the improved security situation and is a further step towards normality."

Although small compared with the total British troops strength in Ulster, the withdrawal of 700 represents the largest in over a decade and the first withdrawal officially announced in the 25-year sectarian conflict.

The move will cut the number of major units in Ulster to 17 — six resident battalions on two-year tours, and six battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment.

The 700 men of Fifth Regiment Royal Artillery, scheduled to complete their six-month tour of duty this month, will be withdrawn to Britain over the next two weeks from their bases in counties Tyrone and Armagh, the government said.

They were to remain on standby at their barracks on the mainland for return at short notice.

Their replacements were to complete the usual intensive training course for Ulster duty, but they, too, would remain on standby on the mainland, the government said.

Sir Patrick said he had been reviewing troop strength in Northern Ireland since the Irish Republican Army (IRA) ceasefire on Sept. 1, and the loyalist ceasefire declared six weeks later.

"A wide range of measures has been taken by the security forces since the ceasefires to reduce the number of soldiers on the streets," he said. "These steps have been accompanied by a number of other measures which have combined to reduce significantly the impact of the security situation on the people of Northern Ireland."

He cautioned that the withdrawal could be quickly reversed, saying "the government will continue to ensure that the police continue to receive whatever level of military support the chief constable judges they require."

The role of the British army in Ulster has officially been to support the provin-

cial police force, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). The decision came as no surprise in Ulster, where a symbolic withdrawal had been expected for some months.

The dual ceasefires have brought a transformation in everyday life in Northern Ireland, particularly in the cities.

Troops have been gradually removed from the streets of Belfast, Londonderry and many other parts of the province, helicopter patrols have been sharply curtailed and road blocks have been lifted.

British troops first entered Northern Ireland on Aug. 14, 1969 to reinforce beleaguered RUC officers and a Protestant auxiliary force facing rioters in Londonderry.

During the bloody year of 1972, troop strength peaked at nearly 22,000.

Meanwhile the New York Times said Tuesday President Bill Clinton has rejected a plea from British Prime Minister John Major to personally pressure the political leader of the Irish Republican Army Gerry Adams to dismantle his group's weapons.

Quoting unnamed administration officials, the daily said Mr. Major made his request in a letter to Mr. Clinton

Friday, a day after Mr. Clinton lifted the ban on Mr. Adams' fundraising activities in the United States and invited him to a St. Patrick's Day reception at the White House on March 17.

The officials described Mr. Major's letter as amicable but straightforward.

They said the U.S. government had already made clear to Mr. Adams that it regarded progress toward IRA disarmament as essential.

National Security Adviser Anthony Lake will repeat the message when he meets with Mr. Adams Tuesday, a senior White House official said.

The upcoming historic first meeting between Mr. Clinton and Mr. Adams has further soured relations with Britain, which believes Washington is moving too fast in recognising Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Mr. Major, in Israel on a trip promoting the Middle East peace process, renewed calls Monday for Sinn Féin to discuss the decommissioning of arms.

Once the weapons are taken out of service "then the other political parties will be in a position to sit down and talk to Sinn Féin," Mr. Major said.



Crew members of the USA-Russia joint space flight (from left to right) American Norman Thagard, Russian Commander Vladimir Dezhnev and engineer Gennady Strekalov talk together during a press conference in Baikonur a day before their departure in the Russian rocket "Soyuz" (AFP photo)

## 1st astronaut in Russian craft blasts off

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan (R) — Norman Thagard, the first American astronaut to fly in a Russian rocket, blasted off from the icy windswept plains of Kazakhstan Tuesday at the start of an historic space mission.

The Soyuz rocket carrying Thagard, Russian flight Commander Vladimir Dezhnev and engineer Gennady Strekalov lifted off smoothly to the applause of officials, spectators and guests at the remote Baikonur Cosmodrome.

Thagard, 51, will spend 90 days on the orbiting Mir station in the longest space mission undertaken by a U.S. astronaut.

One of his main tasks will be to study the effects of a long period in near-zero gravity — a building block in creating a permanently manned multi-billion dollar orbiting space station dubbed Alpha.

The three-phase construction of the space station, due to be completed in June 2002, brings Moscow and Washington together with Canada, the European Space Agency and Japan in a programme to create a permanent orbiting science centre.

"We've come a long way in just a few years," said Will Trafton, one of the NASA officials in charge of the space station programme.

"To see a U.S. astronaut sitting there for the first time in a Russian space suit, next to his Russian commander — I think it's wonderful."

The ground shuddered for kilometers around as the Soyuz rocket, trailing a cloud of orange flame, clawed its way into the air with a mighty roar towards Mir, where it will dock Thursday.

An American tourist who had come from Texas to watch the launch waved the Stars and Stripes as the crowd of journalists, officials and guests applauded and cheered.

"This is history in the making," said Trafton. "It is something of a strange feeling, but it's also a great feeling."

The spectators cheered again as the rocket entered orbit after exactly 10 minutes.

ITAR-TASS news agency said a small fire broke out on the launch pad after the high winds, which gusted at up to 40 metres a second, spread

the flames from the rocket's boosters. The fire was quickly put out and caused only minor damage.

The head of Russia's Military Space Forces, Vladimir Ivanov, compared the mission to the meeting in space 20 years ago between the U.S. Apollo and Soviet spacecraft.

"Remember the first Apollo mission... many good words were said then. Now, veterans of that flight meet and remember it like people remembered the meeting on the Elbe (when U.S. and Soviet forces linked up at the end of World War II)," he said.

Thagard earlier made an emotional farewell to his wife

and three sons in their final meeting before the launch. "Love you," he said before leaving the specially sterilised room to don his blue Russian space suit.

A highlight of the mission will be a link-up in June with the U.S. space shuttle Atlantis. Aboard the shuttle, the 100th U.S. manned space mission, will be five U.S. astronauts and two Russian cosmonauts.

Meanwhile the U.S. shuttle Endeavour pointed its three ultraviolet telescopes toward Venus Monday to help scientists search for argon and helium, and the crew wished fellow astronaut Thagard a "wonderful trip" aboard the Russian space station Mir.

The telescopes also have been studying Mars and Jupiter during Endeavour's latest mission.

In turns out the most difficult target for Endeavour's ultraviolet telescopes isn't a quasar some 10 billion light years away, it's our very own moon.

One of the orbiting instruments snapped the first ultraviolet pictures of the moon Sunday, a feat similar to photographing a road sign while passing it in a speeding car.

Astronomer Randy Gladstone of the Southwest Research Institute said our nearest celestial neighbour was by far the toughest target of Endeavour's planned 15 1/2-day flight.

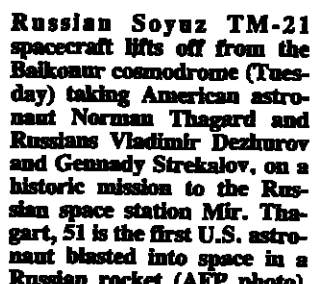
Endeavour's telescopes can zoom in on stars at the edge of the known universe with ease, but they struggle to focus on the moon — a mere 250,000 miles (400,000 kilometres) away — because it and the shuttle move so quickly around the Earth.

To make things even more difficult, the moon is so bright that it can throw off the telescopes' alignment system.

But Gladstone, with help from other scientists on the ground and the astrophysicists aboard Endeavour, was able to collect 12 images of the waxing moon.

He won't know how the 70-millimetre pictures turn out until after the shuttle crew return home, but he was optimistic.

"All our exposures went off as planned and we think we'll really get some good images," he said.



Russian Soyuz TM-21 spacecraft lifts off from the Baikonur cosmodrome (Tuesday) taking American astronaut Norman Thagard and Russian Commander Vladimir Dezhnev and engineer Gennady Strekalov on a historic mission to the Russian space station Mir. Thagard, 51, is the first U.S. astronaut blasted into space in a Russian rocket (AFP photo)

## Defence grills key Simpson witness

LOS ANGELES (R) — O.J. Simpson may be the one facing double-murder charges, but it is police detective Mark Fuhrman who now finds himself on trial, under attack and accused of framing an innocent man.

In day one of a long-awaited confrontation, famed Attorney F. Lee Bailey stood before a mostly black jury Monday and unveiled the defence team's theory — that Mr. Fuhrman is a racist rogue cop who may have planted bloody evidence to implicate Simpson.

Calmly, firmly and without ever raising his voice despite Mr. Bailey's accusatory tone, Mr. Fuhrman — a key prosecution witness — denied he ever met a woman who says he railed against interracial couples and made racist remarks to her in the mid-1980s.

But Mr. Bailey — whose theatrical style has prompted comparisons to legendary TV detective Perry Mason — continued hammering away at him, finally asking point-blank if he had used a bloody glove to smear blood inside Simpson's Ford Bronco.

Mr. Fuhrman laughed almost derisively. "No," he replied. During nearly three hours of cross-examination, it seemed almost as if Mr.

Fuhrman was the one on trial instead of Simpson, who is charged with murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman last June 12.

Mr. Fuhrman has been the defence team's main target from the moment he testified at last July's preliminary hearing about finding a bloody glove at Simpson's estate the morning after the murders. Its match was found near the bodies two miles away.

Getting his first crack at Mr. Fuhrman, Mr. Bailey grilled him relentlessly, at one point confronting him with the suggestion that there were two gloves at the murder scene and that he moved one of them to Simpson's mansion.

"Did you see a couple of gloves up there?" Mr. Bailey asked.

"No," Fuhrman said without hesitation. "I saw one glove."

Nevertheless, legal analysts said Mr. Bailey — who has defended such high-profile clients as Boston strangler Albert Del Salvo and newspaper heiress Patty Hearst — may have scored a few major points.

Under close questioning, Mr. Fuhrman testified for the first time that he was briefly

alone just a few feet from the victims' bodies, a revelation that could be used to support defence claims that he had an opportunity to pocket a glove from the murder scene.

Mr. Fuhrman also admitted he was "disappointed" when he and his partner were relieved of responsibility for the high-profile investigation by more senior detectives from the Police Department's main Homicide Bureau.

Mr. Bailey suggested that Mr. Fuhrman was so bitter that he would have done anything — even frame an innocent man — to look like the hero who cracked the case.

The defence team has so far presented not a shred of proof to back their claim of evidence tampering, but legal experts say Mr. Bailey's well-crafted questions alone could be enough to sow doubt in jurors' minds.

Throughout Mr. Bailey's first day of cross-examination, jurors listened intently but without expression. Some shifted their gaze back and forth from Mr. Bailey to Mr. Fuhrman as if watching a tennis match.

Mr. Fuhrman was due to return to the witness stand Tuesday, and Mr. Bailey was expected to try to probe more deeply into his racial attitudes.

## Forrest Gump gains Oscar momentum

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — Forrest Gump added a bonbon to its box of chocolates — and could wind up with an Oscar for dessert. The Directors Guild of America gave its top award to Robert Zemeckis, making his feel-good epic a virtual shoo-in for an Academy Award on March 27. Almost every DGA winner repeats not only as the Best Director, but also wins the Best Picture Oscar. The last three DGA winners — the makers of The Silence Of The Lambs, Unforgiven and Schindler's List — all have swept top prizes at the Academy Awards. Forrest Gump, starring Tom Hanks as a good-hearted simpleton who becomes a hero, has received 13 Academy Award nominations. "I'm really nervous now," Zemeckis said after the DGA named him best director Saturday in Beverly Hills.

The other nominees included Frank Darabont for The Shawshank Redemption and Mike Newell for Four Weddings And A Funeral. But Zemeckis, a protégé of Steven Spielberg, faced the strongest competition from Quentin Tarantino, the co-writer and director of Pulp Fiction. Since DGA votes are younger (and, by extension, hipper) than those in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Tarantino's best Pulp Fiction chances may be lost.

"Obviously, what makes this moment so significant is it comes from my fellow directors," Zemeckis said in accepting the prize. "Movie directing is exhilarating, exhausting, addicting, painful, rewarding and a very cool job."

## Cindy Crawford made \$6.5m in 1994

NEW YORK (AP) — Cindy Crawford, the 28-year-old American glamour girl whose business zeal has earned her the nickname Cindy Inc., made about \$6.5 million in 1994, making her the world's top-paid model, forbes reports.

The twice-monthly business glossy, famed for rankings of the richest Americans, highest-paid entertainers and highest-paid athletes, pronounced Crawford the top earner in its latest ranking concoction. "Forbes Perfect 10," appearing in the March 27 issue. Forbes attributed Crawford's modeling that has linked the names of fashion celebrities with endorsements of products that range from soda pop to jewellery to panty hose.

"Like professional athletes, they're capitalising on this mass recognition value by creating their own product lines and lending their names, faces and figures to manufacturers for fees that earlier generations of models could only dream of," the magazine said. Crawford, through her company Crawford Inc., makes most of her money from Pepsi commercials, her MTV show House Of Style, and seven-figure endorsement contracts with Kay Jewelers and Revlon. Forbes said. She made about as much last year as Swedish tennis pro Stefan Edberg, who ranked 23rd in the most recent Forbes top-40 athletes ranking. Rounding out the magazine's top-paid modeling list: German Claudia Schiffer, 24, \$5.3 million; American Christy Turlington, 26, \$4.8 million; Canadian Linda Evangelista, 29, \$3.0 million; Australian Elle Macpherson, 30, \$3.0 million; American Nicki Taylor, 20, \$2.4 million; Italian Isabella Rossellini, 42, \$2.3 million; Briton Kate Moss, 21, \$2.2 million; Briton Naomi Campbell, 24, \$2.1 million; and American Bridget Hall, 17, \$2.0 million.

## 80-year-old woman wins divorce

SEOUL (AFP) — An 80-year-old South Korean woman was granted a divorce here after suffering 59 years of abuse from her husband because she could not bear children, newspapers reported Saturday. The Korea Times said the woman, who lived in Seoul, had raised a child by a surrogate mother as well as adopted her sister's daughter to try to satisfy her husband, but he had continued to abuse her and forced her to hand over all her possessions. The Seoul family court had attempted to reconcile the two, but the woman was adamant, and the husband ordered to pay alimony and support, the Times said.



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Forrest Gump gains Oscar momentum



Citizens of Benkovac, a Serbian held town in Croatia, dig a trench in the area overlooking the town. Croatian President Franjo Tudjman has agreed to extend the stay of U.N. troops in Croatia, but only as a sharply reduced contingent (AFP photo)

## S. Africa's Zulu row ends up in court

DURBAN, South Africa (AFP) — A blazing row between Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini and Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Mangosuthu Buthezi over the future of the Zulu monarchy Tuesday landed up in court.

The king, believing Mr. Buthezi is trying to depose him, applied in the Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court for a law which allows for the removal of the monarch to be declared null and void, royal spokesman Siso Zulu told a press conference.

Mr. Zulu said King Zwelithini is challenging the creation of the House of Traditional Leaders, which has the authority to withdraw the king's powers and functions. Legislation establishing the 80-member body, made up mostly of IFP-aligned traditional chiefs and chaired by Mr. Buthezi, was passed by the KwaZulu-Natal provincial legislature late last year thanks to the IFP's one-seat majority.

The king, Mr. Zulu said, claims the bill was rushed through the legislature by the IFP and believes it "unacceptable" that he, as titular

## French Socialist leader faces jail demand

SAINT-BRIEUC, France (Agencies) — A prosecutor demanded Tuesday a two-day suspended prison sentence for French Socialist Party leader Henri Emmanuelli, accused of illegal funding practices for his movement.

Mr. Emmanuelli is one of 17 people on trial in a series of corruption or party funding cases involving all of France's major political parties, which are being held against the backdrop of campaigning for the April-May presidential election.

Public Prosecutor Yves Boivin requested the punishment against Emmanuelli on charges of complicity in influence peddling when he was Socialist Party treasurer from 1988 to 1991, including the May 1988 re-election of Socialist President Francois Mitterrand.

The trial revolves around the Urban Consultancy Firm, staffed by Socialist militants or sympathisers, and said to have been involved in taking rake-offs from public contracts.

The prosecution alleges that companies seeking public works contracts paid commissions to such firms which were then funnelled into Socialist Party coffers.

Mr. Boivin asked for three of the accused to be cleared of charges, but for punishments against the others including several three-year terms, only part of which would be suspended.

He brushed aside Mr. Emmanuelli's denial of involvement saying "of course you knew very well how Urban worked. As party treasurer you made the decisions."

Mr. Emmanuelli told the court last week he was never involved in Urban's management.

But he said under questioning he had met Urban Chairman Gerard Monate two or three times a year to discuss the party budget and "no doubt, like many Socialist Party leaders, asked him to help some elected office holder."

Mr. Boivin also asked for a suspended two-year sentence against Mr. Monate who worked at Urban after being long-time president of the main French Policemen's Union.

Mr. Emmanuelli, 49, unsuccessful contender for the Socialist presidential nomination, said he had suffered "three years of calumny" after being indicted in the Urban case in 1992.

A former party treasurer and National Assembly speaker, he resigned his seat in parliament when he came under investigation but was later comfortably re-elected.

Meanwhile Jacques Chirac, the leading candidate in French presidential elections, Monday announced his personal worth — 7.2 million francs (about \$1.4 million) — in a bow to public pressure on contenders to stay strictly above board.

The figure shows that Mr. Chirac, the mayor of Paris, is three times poorer than premier Edouard Balladur who divulged his worth Friday — about 21.1 million francs (\$4.2 million).

Both men are conservatives from the same party, the Rally For the Republic, giving a bitter edge to the campaign to replace Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, ending a second seven-year term in May.

Neither of the candidates divulged his real worth when laying out his "state of patrimony." But it could be deduced from the taxes paid.

There is no law requiring candidates to divulge their worth, although the winner must.



Cuban leader Fidel Castro (left) gestures as French President Francois Mitterrand stands with him outside the presidential Elysee Palace in Paris after attending a luncheon given in his honour. Castro is on a three-day visit to France (AFP photo)

## Balladur dissents from welcome for Castro

PARIS (R) — French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur distanced himself Tuesday from the red-carpet welcome granted to Cuban leader Fidel Castro by outgoing Socialist President Francois Mitterrand.

"I am not convinced that in the current circumstances, there were grounds to give a spectacular character to relations between France and Cuba," Mr. Balladur, a conservative candidate in April-May presidential elections, told Reuters.

Mr. Balladur said the U.S. economic embargo on Cuba was adopted at a time when Washington felt its security was threatened but was no longer justified in a changed world.

He said France had to deal with foreign governments even when it had little sympathy with their human rights record or their respect for freedom. "This applies to Mr. Castro as it does to others," he said.

But in a rare public difference with Mr. Mitterrand on foreign policy, the Prime Minister said he saw no reason for a spectacular

warming of ties with Cuba at this time.

Asked why he had not met Mr. Castro during the Marxist revolutionary leader's current four-day visit to France, Mr. Balladur said: "He did not ask to be received."

Mr. Castro was playing tourist Thursday morning in the French capital and began his day by visiting the tomb of Napoleon at the Invalides.

The Cuban leader, who donned his traditional military uniform for the occasion, was accompanied by an aide carrying a Michelin guide of the French capital.

He arrived at the Invalides at about 0830 GMT and visited the site for some 30 minutes. He later visited the Louvre Museum and the Eiffel Tower.

This is Mr. Castro's first visit to France since he took power in January 1959.

Mr. Castro began his first visit to France with a blistering attack on American "imperialism" seeking global domination.

Using the platform of a United Nations organisation — the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organi-

## Karachi arrest toll reaches 400

KARACHI (Agencies) — Despite 400 arrests in four days, none of the suspects has been charged in any of the recent mass killings that have convulsed Karachi, police said Tuesday.

Shahid Hamid, the home secretary for Sind province, which includes Karachi, said Monday that six suspected terrorists were among those picked up in the city-wide roundup that began Saturday.

But police officials, who requested anonymity, said Tuesday that none of the 400 had been charged with serious crimes. Many of those arrested are suspects in petty crimes and were out on bail, one source said.

"The arrests are just an eyewash to make it look like something is happening," said Nazim Haji, co-chairman of the Citizens-Police Liaison Committee, a private group that works with police, but is often critical of the force.

"If these dangerous suspects have always been there, then why didn't the police arrest them earlier?" he told the Associated Press.

Mr. Hamid, the home secretary, said the terrorist suspects were linked to prominent organisations, including the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, a political opposition group, and Tehrik-e-Jafria Pakistan, a hardline Shiite Muslim group.

But leaders from both organisations denied their members were involved in any recent attacks and challenged the authorities to provide proof. There have been about a dozen terrorist attacks in Karachi this year, but none of the cases has been solved.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has blamed rival ethnic, political, and religious groups, and also has accused the country's drug barons.

Meanwhile, an FBI team continued to search for clues into last week's shooting death of two American diplomatic personnel who worked U.S. consulate in Karachi.

The Americans are offering \$2 million for information leading to the killers, but there have been no breakthroughs so far.

An army of up to 4,000 extremists funded by drug barons is stirring up the chronic violence that has left more than 1,000 dead over the past year in Karachi, a police official said Tuesday.

Preliminary investigations after the arrest of 350 people in a two-day clampdown in the sprawling port city indicated that traffickers were the cause of Karachi's strife, government officials said.

Karachi Police Chief Afzal Shigri claimed that 3,000 to 4,000 extremists were actively involved in creating unrest.

Many of those arrested are members of ethnic and sectarian parties and at least six have been charged with terrorism, he said.

The statements have turned the spotlight from India, long blamed by the government as being the cause of Karachi problems, to drug gangs. But observers say the authorities may be "oversimplifying complex problem."

A sectarian party activist told AFP that the "sudden flurry of activity and arrests were simply meant to pacify the Americans and subdue international criticism."

Pakistan has faced intense pressure to act tough over Karachi after the two U.S. consular officials were shot dead last week.

## 9 French troops killed in Bosnia road accident

## Akashi: Bosnian situation 'critical'

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — U.N. envoy Yasushi Akashi left Sarajevo empty-handed Tuesday after two days of talks with Bosnian government and separatist Serb leaders that failed to yield even a face-to-face meeting of the combatants.

"The situation is serious and I would even say critical," Mr. Akashi told reporters before boarding a flight back to U.N. Protection Force Headquarters in Zagreb.

"Unless we do something in the next two to three weeks a further degradation and resumption of fighting is feared."

Mr. Akashi flew into the Bosnian capital Sunday to breathe new life into a truce agreement which has begun to unravel.

A Serb machinegunner shot a hole in Mr. Akashi's plane as he arrived on his mission, the first of many signs the U.N. special envoy encountered during his visit confirming Bosnia's slow slide back towards war.

Enraged by the sniping deaths of two young Serb girls in Sarajevo Saturday, Serb leaders closed the only remaining civilian supply routes — into the city, intensified their own sniping and resumed shelling.

Three people were killed and another eight wounded in scattered fighting which erupted across the city as Mr. Akashi met with government leaders at Bosnia's presidency building.

He then visited Serb leaders in Pale, east of Sarajevo, Monday. Mr. Akashi told reporters each side was blaming the other for the rise in hostilities across Bosnia.

"While both sides are still committed to the implementation of this (truce) government, both sides are accusing each other of bad faith," he said.

Mr. Akashi said the sticking point blocking future meetings between the two factions was the blue route issue.

Government negotiators were demanding the roads in and out of Sarajevo be opened as a precondition for such meetings, with the Serbs so far refusing.

A Bosnian minister said Mr. Akashi told the government that Serb General Ratko Mladic had pledged to keep Sarajevo closed for 30 days for each Serb killed in fighting around the city.

Observers in Sarajevo said differences between the two sides run much deeper than the blue routes.

The Bosnian government explicitly rules out extending

the current truce agreement when it expires on May 1 unless separatist Serbs agree to the international peace plan for Bosnia drafted last summer.

Serbs have repeatedly rejected the plan's roughly even division of Bosnia, which would require them to give up about one-third of the 70 per cent of the country they now control.

Mr. Akashi was clearly discouraged by the results of his trip but pledged to persevere. "I go through disappointments but I refuse to give up our efforts," he said.

Mr. Akashi said he had yet to examine the details of a deal struck over the weekend to allow U.N. peacekeepers to stay in Croatia beyond March 31, when their current mandate expires.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman agreed to keep an international peace force if it started monitoring borders with Serb-held Bosnia and Serbia now held by rebel Croatian Serbs.

Mr. Akashi said Bosnian leader Radovan Kradzic had "expressed considerable concern" about such border monitoring arrangements in talks Monday.

Meanwhile, nine French U.N. soldiers were killed and four seriously hurt Tuesday morning in a road accident on Mount Igman near Sarajevo, the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said here.

This brought to 31 the number of French peacekeepers killed in the former Yugoslavia since their deployment in September 1991.

All 13 were aboard an armoured vehicle, travelling on a mountain road, which tumbled into a 40 metre deep ravine, unit spokesman Captain Marc Frigiere said.

The accident occurred on the strategic height south of Sarajevo. All the men were from the 27th Mountain Infantry Division.

The names of the victims were to be released once families had been notified.

Three helicopters took part in rescue operations which lasted several hours in very difficult terrain, Capt. Frigiere said.

Mr. Akashi, who was in town, extended his condolences to the families of the dead soldiers and to the French government.

The accident reflected the "hazards of peacekeeping," he said.

French Prime Minister and presidential candidate Edouard Balladur also offered his condolences to the families of the victims.

## U.K. Labour policy-makers ditch Marxist clause

LONDON (AP) — The opposition Labour Party's policy-making Executive Committee Monday agreed to drop a cherished Marxist clause on state ownership from the party's constitution.

"This is a defining moment in my party's history," declared Labour leader Tony Blair, who polls indicate is well ahead of John Major to become Britain's next prime minister.

The National Executive Committee of party leaders and trade union chiefs voted 21-3, with five abstentions, to erase the party's 77-year-old commitment to "common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange."

The decision now appears almost certain to be ratified at a special meeting of the party rank-and-file in London on April 29.

A new draft to replace a section of the constitution's Clause IV declared the party committed to "putting power, wealth and opportunity in the hands of the many, not the few."

In another victory, Mr. Blair succeeded in thwarting an attempt by union bosses to include in the new Clause IV a commitment to full employment — an aim he regards as unrealistic.

"We have a strong set of aims and values... we can win the trust of the British people to govern," said Mr. Blair.

On Saturday, the Scottish Labour Party — much of which is to the left of English activists — voted to ditch the public ownership clause.

Dropping the clause is key to Mr. Blair's drive to remodel the party which, despite attempts since the mid-80s to push it toward the centre, has lost four consecutive elections to the Conservatives.

Labour, however, now appears unbeatable for the next election, which must be held by early 1997. For more than a year, Labour has been at record or near-record leads of between 30 and 40 points in opinion polls.

Labour left-wingers expressed dismay at Monday's vote.

"We should take back coal, rail and water into public ownership when a Labour government is elected," said Dennis Skinner, a veteran left-wing legislator on the party's Central Committee.

"We've got the Tories on the run. What is this all about? Is the next step to sever the link with the trade unions?"

Labour, founded at the turn of the century by labour unions, is largely bankrolled by the unions.

The Conservatives, which get money mostly from big business, say this means the party is dictated to by the unions.

## Indian opposition demands Rao's resignation

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Hindu nationalists, emboldened by an electoral triumph in India's richest state, led the opposition Tuesday in demanding that Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao step down.

Its capital Bombay accounts for about 40 per cent of national tax revenue. The BJP also swept to a landslide victory in neighbouring Gujarat, wresting power from Congress.

"The Narasimha Rao government has lost whatever remaining moral authority it had," a BJP spokesman said.

"The Congress is torn by dissension, it is ravined by corruption, and lacks in political direction or philosophy."

In an embarrassing display of squabbling, Congress members held a meeting Monday aimed at fostering unity, only to have it degenerate into name-calling and fistfights between supporters of Mr. Rao and dissident leader Arjun Singh.

Party workers carried placards and shouted slogans in support of Sonia Gandhi, the widow of slain Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who is courted by rival factions to influence party rank and file.

On Monday the BJP and its Hindu regional ally, the Bombay-based Shiv Sena, won control of Maharashtra, a showcase for economic reforms and the most crucial of six states voting in February and March.

Mr. Rao supporters put a brave face on the state elections, noting that Congress has won two of four states which have announced results in the current round of balloting. In late 1994, it was trounced in the three of four states.

"It could have been much worse," said Congress spokesman Vithal Gadgil. "We had been expecting this."

Mr. Rao, who enjoys an absolute majority in parliament in New Delhi, was expected to fend off demands for early polls.

In power since 1991, he has repeatedly said he will serve out his five-year term, set to end in mid-1996. He has expressed a preference to hold national elections by April 1996.

Mr. Rao supporters say the state elections have turned primarily on local issues and note that in several key cases, regional, not national, parties have won power.

No major parties have called into question Mr. Rao's trademark liberalisation policies, which were expected to give a boost Wednesday when Finance Minister Manmohan Singh was to present the government's budget covering the next 12 months.

Characteristically laconic, Mr. Rao made no public comment on the state polls.

But the Statesman newspaper said in a front-page story that Mr. Rao had privately raised the possibility of resigning. Mr. Rao told aides that "he would not like to be perceived as someone who has caused disintegration of the party," the newspaper said.

An aide to Mr. Rao denied the Statesman story.

"The report is completely untrue," the aide said.

Meanwhile an alliance of two rightwing Hindu parties which emerged victorious in the recent state polls in Maharashtra vowed Tuesday to rename its capital Bombay after a patron saint of this financial hub of India.

The ultra-militant Shiv Sena, which spearheaded a drive since 1971 to rename this city of 12 million people, is set to form the government with the help of Bharatiya Janata Party.

Shiv Sena wants to rename the city as Mumbai after the Hindu goddess Mumba Devi, considered Bombay's patron saint. The city was named Bombay during the British colonial rule.

## U.S. rules out compromise on N. Korean reactors

SEOUL (R) — The key U.S. negotiator involved in nuclear talks with Communist North Korea said Tuesday Washington had ruled out a compromise in offering South Korean reactors in a landmark deal with Pyongyang.

Robert Gallucci said the United States recognised it was a "politically sensitive" problem for North Korea to accept a South Korean reactor and added that was a main reason for the establishment last week of a U.S.-led consortium.

The consortium, the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO), was "to provide a political context or umbrella entity to deal with the North Koreans to provide the reactor," he told a forum of Asia-Pacific journalists.

The forum, through a satellite link-up to the United States, Japan, South Korea,

Australia and Indonesia, was arranged before a fresh round of U.S.-North Korean talks on March 25-29 in Berlin on the reactor controversy.

Under an accord last October, North Korea said it would freeze its nuclear programme, suspected of being aimed at developing a nuclear arsenal, in return for light-water reactors and alternative energy supplies.

But the Stalinist North has threatened to walk away from the deal if forced to take reactors produced by its arch-rival, South Korea, a key member of KEDO.

Ambassador-at-large Gallucci, who signed the accord with North Korea on behalf of the United States in Geneva, said he made it clear to Pyongyang that it would have to accept South Korean-designed reactors.

Asked if the United States ruled out the possibility of changing its plan on the type of reactors, he said: "I told them (North Koreans) there was only one reactor project I was able to envision financing. That was a South Korean reactor. That is the beginning and end of the story."

Mr. Gallucci said he understood Seoul's stand that it could shoulder the bulk of the costs only if the North accepts South Korean-designed reactors.

He said North Korea had suggested it could take either French, German, Russian or American reactors, but added: "We are not going to be in a position of pressuring the people of South Korea to pay the French, the Germans, the Russians or... the Americans to build the reactors for North Korea."

Mr. Gallucci said companies from the United States and other KEDO members could be sub-contractors for the project, costing more than \$4 billion.

"We've recognised all along it is a politically sensitive move for them. We understood that. We have tried to provide an adequate political context," he said.

Mr. Gallucci said any break in the North Korean nuclear freeze, such as the refuelling of an existing reactor, would be seen as breaking "the essence of the deal."

Such a move would lead to retaliatory steps by the United States and its allies. One option would be to refer the matter to the U.N. Security Council for consideration of sanctions.

"We will be prepared to deal with the situation if they decide to break the agreement," he said.

80-year-old woman wins divorce



## Jordan Times

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## Key in the air

THE ISRAELI Labour government led by Yitzhak Rabin has no more than a few months to conclude a peace agreement with Syria and Lebanon. It can clinch a compromise deal now or risk face a disappointed Israeli electorate, just before the 1996 election campaign kicks off soon. If peace between the two principal antagonists is not reached by the summer of 1996, a Likud government led by Benjamin Netanyahu may well be the successor to the ruling coalition.

Syria wants total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights as a condition to make peace and have normal ties with the Jewish state. Damascus says that short of achieving such a goal it will not be ready to end the state of war and seek peaceful relations with its neighbour. The Israeli leaders meanwhile insist that the Syrians take the first steps towards a settlement, as a measure of good intentions, and then hope to win a national consensus on an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

The two countries have been negotiating on different levels, including in talks between their two envoys in the U.S. and their military chiefs of staff. And they apparently both agree on the deployment of U.S. troops on the Golan as a buffer between their armies.

Yet what has bogged the negotiations down seems to be that the Israelis have so far not committed themselves to a full withdrawal from the strategic plateau. Until last week, Mr. Rabin was talking only about a phased withdrawal "to test the Syrians." But this week with a fresh round of diplomacy by the U.S. Secretary of State, there seems to be new hope for an early breakthrough. Warren Christopher, still shuttling yesterday between the two countries, would only say that the two sides were going through "serious discussions." But at least one Israeli leader, namely Shimon Peres, did come up with a good idea on Monday. Instead of talking about "phased-withdrawal," Peres finally admitted that his country needs to pay the "inevitable price" if it wanted peace with Syria. This price was interpreted by Labour Party Secretary General Nissim Zivli to mean "total retreat from the Golan."

Has that message been already passed on to President Assad? We do not know, but certainly hope that it has. A breakthrough on that front will most certainly be the key to a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region as a whole.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily on Tuesday voiced hope that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Jordan and his tour of the region would contribute to pushing the peace process forward. The newspaper said in its editorial that it hopes the visit would constitute a step forward in the process, noting that time that is wasted cannot be made up. It said it has become imperative now to achieve progress in the process to avoid any harm to it. What we know for sure is that Mr. Christopher heard from His Majesty King Hussein what he heard from him before and received from His Majesty assurances of Jordan's support for peace and a just settlement because the substitute for all that is suffering, which will be harsher than the years of war. It said Jordan will support peace and work for its noble cause but warned that Jordan cannot protect peace alone. Al Ra'i said the many promises of support and assistance are appreciated by the Kingdom but such promises cannot be used to solve the problems of poverty, unemployment, extremism and cannot end people's suffering. It urged Washington to support the peace process and the Jordanian role so as not to allow the anti-peace forces to exploit the difficult situation.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i, Nadia Al Aloul, on Tuesday congratulated women on their achievements at both the professional and scientific levels and the role they play in public affairs. Ms. Aloul asked about the role of women as educators, mothers and housewives regarding some alien phenomenon invading the Jordanian society, such as violence and drug addiction. "Some might insist that our society is still okay, but we tell them that our society looks fine only when compared to foreign societies, but is this enough?" she asked. She said that the best means to fight such problems is strengthening the family, mothers in particular. Mothers, the writer said, can build bridges of contact with their children at a time family disintegration is starting to threaten society.

## Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

# The two-front debate on Jerusalem

JERUSALEM IS once again a front and centre as an issue in U.S. politics. As Clinton administration grapples with how to respond to congressional pressure to move to the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, U.S. religious leaders are engaged in their own conflict over their positions on the holy city.

To its credit, despite significant pressure, the administration has remained quite firm in its determination to adhere to the terms of the peace process.

The congressional pressure comes in the form of a letter being circulated in the Senate. Started by New York Senators Alfonse D'Amato and Patrick Daniel Moynihan, the letter has already received 77 co-signers, making it one of the largest groups that has ever signed on to one of these pro-Israel statements.

The letter, which is addressed to Secretary of State Warren Christopher, recalls that the Senate has passed five resolutions over the past decade calling on the U.S. government to acknowledge Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The letter cynically notes that Jerusalem is "a sensitive issue in the current peace process" and that it is "a final status issue," but then goes on to say that "the search for peace can only be hindered by raising unrealistic hopes about the future status of Jerusalem among the Palestinians."

In other words, while the question of Jerusalem is a final status issue only in theory, and the signatories of the letter want the U.S. to dictate the outcome so that the status quo remains unchanged. The senators have therefore called on the administration to begin planning to move the embassy so that such a move can take place no later than May of 1999 — the end of the "transition phase" provided for in the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement.

Complementing the letter is a resolution being introduced in the Senate by Arizona Republican Jon Kyl, which, if passed, would remove U.S. financial support for the embassy in Tel Aviv and provide funding only for an embassy in Jerusalem.

The Clinton administration has not only resisted these politically motivated efforts by the Senate but has done so in the most public and assertive manner. At the confirmation hearings for his nomination as the next U.S. ambassador to Israel, former national security advisor Martin Indyk, delivered a strongly worded rebuke to those who are supporting these moves in the following sections of his testimony:

"Jerusalem is a very sensitive issue, sensitive because Jerusalem is a symbol, a very important symbol for Israel, for the Jewish people, but also a very important symbol for Christians, Muslims, for Palestinians and Arabs... In those circumstances, it is the president's feeling — the administration's feeling — that we should do nothing to undermine or preempt those negotiations, that we should wait and let the parties sort out this very sensitive issue before doing anything... I believe very strongly that to make a move now would explode the peace process... it would put us out of business as a facilitator of those negotiations."

In a recent Capitol Hill forum on the peace process in which I participated along with David Satterfield, who is deputy national security advisor for South Asian and Near

Eastern affairs, Mr. Satterfield repeated Mr. Indyk's emphatic and strongly worded message. So it seems that for its part, the Clinton administration will follow its predecessors by doing nothing to alter the status of Jerusalem.

Nevertheless, this pre-election year game of Congress attempting to force the administration to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel will continue just as it has in every pre-election year in recent memory. (One might recall that President Reagan faced the same pressure and he, too, resisted despite having promised to support such an embassy move during his 1980 campaign against President Jimmy Carter.)

And while the major American-Jewish organisations are split on this current effort, those who want to force the issue are quite pleased that their efforts have so far won the support of three-fourths of the Senate. Even leading Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole has signed the letter — a fact which has raised genuine concerns among the Muslim and Arab-American Republicans who were supporting his campaign.

In the midst of this conflict between the Senate and the administration, an important statement, "Jerusalem: City of Peace," was released by eight major U.S. Christian leaders.

Going well beyond the question of whose capital Jerusalem should be, the Christian leaders focused on their concern over what the real effects of Israeli policy are having on the city, its environs and its Arab residents. Openly dealing with these Israeli policies which pose a grave threat to Jerusalem, the Christian leaders call on the administration, "as facilitator of the peace process," to "place the question of Jerusalem high on its agenda."

Concerned that "developments on the ground in Jerusalem area leave less and less room for negotiation," the Christian leaders statement specifically notes:

"In contravention of international law, more and more land is taken out of Palestinian hands and placed under Israeli control by annexation, expropriation and private purchases, often of questionable legality."

"Israeli planning for 'Greater Jerusalem' is an open secret."

"Israel's assertion that Jerusalem will remain the 'eternal and undivided capital of Israel' is widely interpreted as a claim of exclusive Israeli sovereignty over the city that preempts genuine negotiation."

"That the administration is backing away from the long-term United States policy that East Jerusalem is subject to U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 regarding territories occupied by armed forces in 1967."

"That the administration is failing to recognise and support Palestinian rights and interests in Jerusalem."

"That the administration is not using its considerable influence to halt Israeli construction in East Jerusalem and continued expansion into Palestinian areas."

What was most significant about this Christian letter is that the lead signature was that of Cardinal William H. Keeler, president of the National Council of Catholic Bishops. Since Catholic bishops do not sign letters as individuals, the contents of the letter have been approved

by the entire institutional hierarchy of the U.S. Catholic church and represents their strongest and most clear statement to date on Jerusalem and on Israeli violation of Palestinian rights. Among the other signatories were leaders of two principal Evangelical Christian groups: the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and World Vision.

It is this leadership role played by the Catholic church and some Evangelicals that has raised the greatest concern in the Jewish community. In the past, statements such as these have come from the mainline Protestant denominations and their National Council of Churches (including Methodists, Lutherans, Baptists, etc.). American-Jewish groups have given up on attempting to influence these churches, but they have also learned that the weight of statements issued by these Protestant churches do not pose a major challenge, since they do not include institutional support for the stands taken in them. But what Jewish groups know is that when the Catholics move on an issue, it can represent a major institutional voice in the public policy debate.

Major Jewish groups have responded to this statement by Christian leaders with a fury. The responses ranged from one irate editorial in a Jewish newspaper, which asked "Who Asked You?" to statements of denunciation by the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organisations and the American Zionist Movement. Serious pressure will now be put on these Christian leaders to modify or retract their approval of the statement, especially the Catholics, whose courage of conviction will be challenged by U.S. Jewish organisations.

What is important is that the major U.S. Christian leadership has formally joined the debate — not only over Jerusalem's future but over its present reality and the impact of Israeli policies that have been ignored for too long in the U.S. By forcing the debate on these Israeli policies, the signatories of the Christian letter will help to shift the debate from an abstract future to the real present.

The significance of this statement should not be ignored by Arabs, Muslims, Arab-Americans or American-Muslims. The U.S. Christian leadership should be supported for this bold move.

One final note: The Arab World must do more to help in the matter of Jerusalem. For Americans to realise the legitimacy of the Arab claim to the city of Jerusalem, more must be done to bring this issue into the American debate.

Israel's campaign to be recognised as the sole proprietor of the city has gone largely uncontested. A major campaign should be launched in the United States to establish in the minds of Americans the Arab past, present and future in the city holy to three faiths and hundreds of thousands of Palestinians for whom Jerusalem is their ancestral home. Exhibitions of history and literature, speaking tours, advertising, films and other media should be utilised in the campaign to lend weight to legitimate Arab claims.

As I have said in many past articles, there is a debate here in the U.S. whose outcome can be of critical importance to the lives of so many in the Arab World — come and join the debate.

## After poverty summit, simple question remains

By Nicholas Doughty  
Reuters

COPENHAGEN — It was an epic session of worthy speeches. World leaders urged an end to poverty before making a lofty pledge to transform the human condition.

Now, after a week of words and red-carpet festivities including a lavish banquet, fireworks and laser displays, a simple question hangs in the air.

Was the U.N. Social Summit simply an expensive jamboree? Or will it really bring change to a world where one in five of the inhabitants — more than one billion people — lives below the breadline

and where millions have neither jobs nor dignity?

From the streets of Mexico City to the slums of Manila, hopes have been raised that the week-long summit will help bridge the growing divide between rich and poor as the world stumbles towards the 21st century.

Chile's ambassador to the United Nations, who led the way in preparing the U.N. Conference on Social Development, said the summit had a clear message of hope for the dispossessed.

"It has told the poor that... We will do something about their problems," Juan Somavia told Reuters. "The summit has

delivered and put ordinary people back into the picture."

Echoing warnings from many leaders that real change would take time, Mr. Somavia said he was hopeful because previous U.N. conferences on issues ranging from women's rights to the environment had helped bring change over the years.

But some wondered whether the meeting was the latest example of "summit fatigue," a disease that results from increasingly frequent top-level meetings called to discuss the world's ills.

Last year, it was Cairo for the global population explosion, while 1992 saw

"We can continue to hold the trust of the people of the world only if we make their needs our priority," it said.

But an equitable sharing of the world's resources that would create stable, prosperous countries with little inclination to go to war still seems to be a distant dream.

Behind the rhetoric of unified action lurked the old arguments between the market forces of capitalism and the planned structures of socialism, the bitter tensions between Western nations and the countries they once colonised.

Cuba lashed out at Washington, while Syria, Sudan and others blamed

the West for not giving them more trade or writing off the billions of dollars of debt owed by developing countries.

Germany and the United States talked about how countries must learn to help themselves. They underlined the importance of human rights in the presence of several leaders.

Although the end of the coldwar has offered a unique chance for global cooperation, there was also a recognition at the summit that, with the old certainties of East-West division gone, ethnic conflicts and other problems pose new threats.

# Modern Turkey is part of Europe, and increasingly so

By Tansu Ciller

The writer is prime minister of Turkey

ANKARA — Some people claim that Turkey is not part of Europe. They are wrong on two counts.

First, they perhaps do not know the Turkey of today, recognisably a modern and European country where young people, for example, have the same lifestyle and interests, concerns and hopes as the rest of their generation across Europe.

Second, without Turkey, Europe would be a continent that chooses to amputate nearly 3,000 years of its own history and culture.

The Turks and Turkey have been a part of the life of the continent for many centuries. It is the idea that Turkey is not European which is new. A strong and prosperous Turkey, firmly integrated into the mainstream life of Europe, will be a beacon of stability over a wide region rife with religious and ethnic antagonisms. It will give the lie to prejudice and extremism on every side.

A historic step in this direction takes place in Brussels this week, as Turkey and the European Union (EU) complete a customs union agreement that has been more than three decades in the making. Starting in January, goods

and services will be able to circulate freely between Turkey and the rest of Europe. It is an exciting opportunity for both sides.

Turkey is a young country with a population of 62 million. Inside the European Union, only Germany has a larger market. The EU, with Turkey, will form a vast consumer market.

Turkey and the EU designed the customs union in the 1960s and 1970s. We have come a long way since then. In 1963, when the treaty linking Turkey to the European Economic Community was signed, Turkey was mainly an agricultural country. Today we are predominantly an urban and industrial nation. Some of our industries, particularly textiles and steel, are considered world leaders.

The customs union, however, represents more than just an opportunity to compete economically. It is part of a much broader trend all over the world towards convergence and partnership.

In the closing years of 20th century, regional free trade blocs such as the European Union and the North America have appeared on every continent. They are stepping stones towards a world of almost unlimited opportunities, built on democratic values, the free market system and the miracles of new

technology.

Adaptable and pragmatic regional economic groupings are the best way to overcome historical suspicions and rivalries. They provide a framework in which business communities in every country cooperate freely to generate prosperity.

Turkey is situated on the edge of both Europe and the Middle East. So it has an almost unique combination of experience and insights where regional groupings are concerned.

We are working hard with Israel and the leading Arab states to ensure that the endemic conflict of the Middle East is replaced by cooperation and the elimination of poverty and insecurity.

Our geographic position enables us to share in similar ventures elsewhere. The Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organisation is forging links between countries in the Black Sea region. At its meetings, even hostile countries such as Azerbaijan and Armenia sit around the same table to discuss ways of peaceful cooperation. Elsewhere, we are trying to promote trade and cooperation in the Caucasus and among the newly independent countries of Central Asia.

There are two reasons we stress trade and cooperation this way.

The first is economic. As a newly industrialised country, we know that faster growth and greater prosperity can come only if we stimulate international trade and capital flows. This is the only way to ensure that all of our citizens enjoy the standard of living to which they aspire.

The second is geopolitical. Unfortunately, one does not have to look far outside Western Europe to see serious threats to international order. Turkey is a democratic and stable country, but, unlike North Americans or West Europeans, we live close to several of the world's trouble spots.

Ancient hatreds, ethnic grudges and fanaticism based on differences of religion and nationality still stalk the world. They are claiming millions of innocent victims even today. Bosnia has shown us how much suffering can be caused by nationalism based on religious and ethnic strife.

Some trends in the Middle East cause anxiety. One is the spread of extremist fundamentalism. Here I strongly believe that Turkey has an important contribution to make. Its population is Muslim and devout, but also European.

New Perspectives Quarterly.

## LETTERS

### Baffling comments

To the Editor:

THE COMMENTS made by the Minister of Culture, Samir Habashneh, at a population conference in Copenhagen regarding women and reprinted in the Jordan Times, issue of March 14, were really surprising. How a minister, who is also a writer and an intellectual, can say there is no discrimination against women in Jordan absolutely baffles me.

Can we imagine, for one second, that the minister does not know anything about all forms of abuse against women in Jordan and all over the world? Doesn't he know that Jordanian women can't even have a passport without the approval of their fathers or their guardians? Doesn't he know that the man has the right to divorce his wife without having any valid reason? Doesn't he really see discrimination against women, at work, at home and in the streets?

There is no doubt that Jordan has made significant strides towards advancement of women's rights and their living conditions. But that does not mean that the minister or anyone else can overstate facts, exaggerate and misrepresent the actual situation.

What is frustrating is that the claim comes from an intellectual, who has been writing about social issues for several years. But what is even more frustrating is that he made his claim to an international conference that was attended by many experts from all over the world.

It would have been more credible if the minister talked about Jordan's achievements and how much is left to be done. Mr. Habashneh should have talked about women's aspirations, their objectives and the obstacles or not talk about the whole issue at all.

If it was not for discrimination against women, the minister should know, we would have fewer problems here in Jordan and elsewhere in the world.

Sa'eda Kilani,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Israel ups Palestinian permits to 21,600

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Israeli army announced Tuesday that another 3,600 permits would be allocated for Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to work in Israel. The announcement brought the total number of permits to 21,600. Israel allowed in 47,000 Palestinian labourers before a double suicide bombing killed 21 Israelis on Jan. 22. An estimated 20,000 more were employed illegally in the Jewish state. After the bombing the army sealed off the territories for a month.

## Khomeini's son remains critical

TEHRAN (AFP) — Doctors reported little improvement Tuesday in the condition of Ahmad Khomeini, son of the founder of the Islamic republic Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who is in a coma after a heart attack. "The latest tests have shown minor functioning of the brain," the head of 30-strong medical team, Hassan Arefi, told the Iranian official agency IRNA. But Mr. Khomeini's "health condition could gradually improve," he said, adding that a respiratory system problem had been partly cleared and his blood pressure was returning to normal.

## Heavily-armed Algerian held in Spain

BARCELONA (R) — Police arrested a suspected member of a militant Algerian Islamic fundamentalist group with a suitcase full of weapons at a Barcelona train station, a spokeswoman said on Tuesday. The 25-year-old was carrying fake French identity papers and heading for Algeria, she added. "The detainee is thought to be a member of GIA (Armed Islamic Group)," the police spokeswoman said. The Algerian was carrying three automatic rifles, magazines for Kalashnikov assault rifles, 2,000 bullets of various sizes, a hand grenade, an electronic detonator and two laser sights for precision rifles, police said.

## Charles visits pharaonic ruins

LUXOR (AP) — The heir to the British throne visited the Nile Valley of the Kings Tuesday, chatting with admiring tourists who mobbed him on a tour of Egyptian antiquity. Japanese, British and American sightseers jostled for a glimpse of Prince Charles as he visited the tombs of Tutankhamun and Seti I, the temple of Queen Hatshepsut and the 1,500-year-old Temple of Karnak, the most famed sites of pharaonic Egypt. Japanese waved, clapped and yelled "Charles" as the prince walked through Hatshepsut's cavernous halls, wearing a double-breasted suit on a hot winter day. Prince Charles turned to the 20 tourists, smiled and asked them about their trip. It was a similar scene at the other sites. Prince Charles will leave for Morocco on Wednesday. On his trip in Egypt, he mixed politics with sightseeing, visiting the Giza Pyramids, Islamic monuments and the mountain in the Sinai Peninsula believed to be the site of the biblical burning bush. He also met Christian and Muslim leaders.

## Trial of 14 suspects starts in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Fourteen suspected Muslim extremists accused of killing two policemen in 1993 went on trial Tuesday, joined in court by relatives whom they had not seen in more than a year. Nine of the men are charged with killing a policeman in Cairo. Five others are accused of shooting an officer in Sohag, a town about 390 kilometres south of Cairo. All 14, wearing white prison trousers and shirts and sporting long beards common among militants, denied the charges, which included stealing the policemen's weapons and attempted murder. One policeman was wounded in the attack in Sohag. The killings are part of a three-year campaign to overthrow the government in which more than 600 people have died.

## Iran to send 500,000 back to Afghanistan

TEHRAN (AFP) — Half a million refugees from Afghanistan are to be repatriated in the next 12 months under an accord between Iran and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), an Iranian official said Tuesday. The head of the aliens department at the Interior Ministry, Ahmad Hosseini, said the UNHCR had earmarked \$12 million for the project. "Iran intends to limit the number of refugees" on its soil, he added in comments published by the press. "From March 21, 400,000 Afghans with temporary residency permits must start leaving Iran voluntarily, otherwise they will be transferred to refugee camps," he said.

## Turkey, Georgia to open border gate

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and Georgia are to open a border crossing and begin direct flights soon, the Anatolian news agency said on Tuesday. Senior border officials from both countries met on the Turkish side of the frontier on Tuesday and signed a protocol for the first crossing to be opened in Turkey's Ardahan province, near Posof town, it said.

## Settlers publish book in praise of Goldstein

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A book entitled "Baruch, the Man," in praise of Hebron mosque killer Goldstein, went on sale in Israel and the occupied territories on Tuesday. Militants from the banned anti-Arab Kach movement, several rabbis and Jewish settlers from the Hebron area worked together on the 553-page hardback with colour pictures which sells for about \$12. They paid to publish 6,000 copies and intend to spend any profits on the grave of Baruch Goldstein at the settlement of Kiryat Arba where he was a doctor.

## Rebels say wing formed to hit Khartoum

NAIROBI (R) — Sudan's largest rebel faction said on Tuesday it was forming a new brigade to concentrate on guerrilla war in government-controlled centres including Khartoum. A spokesman for the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) led by John Garang said: "The New Sudan Brigade" would include "armed cells" in government-controlled urban centres under SPLA command. In its 12-year-old civil war with Khartoum, the SPLA has focused on trying to seize government-held territory, villages and towns in the south. It has not carried out guerrilla attacks inside the capital and northern areas under Khartoum's control.

## Iran to send 69,000 pilgrims to Haj

NICOSIA (R) — Iran will send 69,000 pilgrims to attend the annual Haj in Saudi Arabia in May but plans to lobby to increase the number it can send to the pilgrimage, the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted an official as saying. In a report late on Monday, it quoted Mohammad Hussein Rezaei, head of the Haj and Pilgrimage Organisation, as saying Iran would send 4,000 more pilgrims to this year's Haj but it was still dissatisfied. "Some 69,000 Iranians will perform the Haj ... far below the 100,000 to 150,000 that used to undertake the annual obligation before the Saudis cut down the numbers on vague pretexts," Mr. Rezaei was quoted as saying.

## Japan to send pilot mission to Golan

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's ruling coalition decided Tuesday to send a fact-finding mission to the Golan Heights in April to decide whether or not to send peacekeeping troops to the Israeli-occupied territory. The mission, to be comprised of representatives from three ruling parties and government officials, will depart around April 10 for a 10-day tour of Israel, Syria and Jordan. Jiji and Kyodo news agencies said.

## King and Major hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

ing a larger role in the peace process.

The British prime minister, the second head of government to visit the autonomous Strip, also pledged an unspecified amount of British export credits to the Palestinians and said he would set up a fund to develop Palestinian technological skills.

Mr. Major's visit to Gaza was marred by the death of a child shot accidentally by a Palestinian policeman.

A member of Mr. Arafat's elite guard was cleaning his machine gun when it went off in Shatti refugee camp and killed 10-year-old Mubarak Attallah Al Rawaghi, reports said.

Mr. Major cancelled a planned tour of the camp on the outskirts of Gaza City, and a British spokesman said: "The death of the child is very regrettable."

"We were in the hands of Palestinian security and we take their recommendations where to go and where not to go."

"The prime minister would have been very disappointed

not to visit a refugee camp."

Mr. Major gave Mr. Arafat a gift of 50 patrol vehicles for the Palestinian police and pledged Britain's full support for his self-rule authority.

"We understand the importance of the rule of law in democratic societies and I believe you deserve every support for the difficult tasks ahead," he said. "You have our support."

"We are keen to help with both training and equipment whenever we can."

Britain is donating \$120 million to the Palestinians over the next three years as well as \$100 million through the European Union.

Mr. Major also said that the European Union may send observers for the planned elections to a Palestinian self-rule council.

Mr. Arafat was "willing, and that is very good news," he said. "It means a new departure for Europe and reflects Europe's desire," to join peace efforts.

Mr. Arafat told Mr. Major and the British business leaders accompanying him that Gaza lacked everything from hospital beds to export mar-

kets for flowers.

"We are looking for your support ... in the European Union so that we can have the ability to export our production directly."

Mr. Major promised to take up the request with EU colleagues.

Mr. Major termed his entourage "undoubtedly the strongest team of British businessmen to ever collectively leave British shores" and said he hoped they would establish direct business dealings with Palestinians.

The EU was becoming more actively involved in implementing the Sept. 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord, he added.

"It does reflect, I feel, Europe's desire to take a more active part in promoting the peace process across the region," he said.

Later, Mr. Major met with a Palestinian delegation at the British consulate in Jerusalem and paid a courtesy call on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin before leaving for Jordan.

He held official talks with Mr. Rabin on Monday.

issue is one of the most difficult questions to resolve and which has to be addressed directly and effectively.

He said the U.S. tried to play a role in examining the options available but stressed that it was up for the two parties to agree on a solution.

While in Syria, Mr. Christopher said he believed peace talks with Syria would resume, and opposition leaders launched a campaign to block any withdrawal from the Golan Heights and bring on early elections.

Mr. Rabin told the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee he believed Syria would renew peace talks because U.S. prestige was on the line.

"It won't be pleasant with the Americans if they don't," Mr. Rabin was quoted as saying by an official who briefed reporters on the closed-door meeting.

Right-wing opponents of a Golan withdrawal said they were sure the government, despite denials, had given in to Syrian demands for a complete pullback from the strategic plateau.

"It's not a secret that the government is prepared to cede the entire Golan to Syria. I have no doubt that this message was communicated to Assad," said Benjamin Netanyahu, head of the opposition Likud Party.

Mr. Netanyahu told reporters he plans to submit a bill dispersing parliament and calling for new elections. Elections are currently scheduled for November 1996.

If elections were held now, Mr. Netanyahu said Mr. Rabin would "lose and lose big." He said his party opposed withdrawing from any part of the heights.

Netanyahu spokesman Shai Bazak said the bill would be submitted by the end of the month, but Likud officials admitted it was not likely to pass and was mainly symbolic.

## Israel, Syria to resume talks

(Continued from page 1)

mostly in the expanded U.S. participation.

Additionally, Israel, Syria and the United States will form a committee to oversee the negotiations, another U.S. official said.

Mr. Christopher said last-minute delays in announcing the arrangements were due to the difficulty of the issues and the fact that Mr. Rabin was busy also with a debate in the Israeli parliament and with British Prime Minister John Major, who was visiting occupied Jerusalem.

Mr. Christopher and Mr. Rabin had talked earlier Tuesday by telephone, and the American diplomat met with Mr. Assad for two hours.

The Israel-Syria talks broke down in December with Israeli and Syrian military chiefs negotiating security arrangements for the Golan Heights in the expectation Mr. Rabin would agree to at least a partial pullback.

Israel's chief negotiator with Syria said U.S.-directed talks with Damascus were "much more serious and cover a larger area" than previously. Mr. Rabinovich spoke to reporters after Mr. Christopher and Mr. Rabin met.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told

army radio that once serious negotiations are resumed, an agreement can be reached within months.

"Both sides know more or less what the settlement is," Mr. Beilin said. "If they want peace with us, I don't think we need a lot of time to reach agreements."

Possible measures include demilitarised zones, limitations on Israeli and Syrian troop deployments in other zones and listening posts and an early warning system to detect and warn of surprise attacks.

The Clinton administration already has said any settlement should be based on land for peace — Israel giving up territory in exchange for Arab recognition.

Israel took that approach in concluding peace treaties with Egypt in 1979 and Jordan last year.

When Israeli and Syrian diplomats last talked face to face in Washington, the military chiefs of staff participated. On Monday, Mr. Christopher sent military aide General Daniel W. Christman to the Golan Heights from Damascus for an assessment of security.

Responding to a question on security arrangements in the Golan Heights, Mr. Christopher said the security

## Royal Guards Brigade formed

(Continued from page 12)

address in which he congratulated the brigade's personnel for receiving the banner.

He underlined his keenness to continue to develop and modernise the Armed Forces. He described the army as "the protector of our very dear homeland... and the protector of the right of this people at present and the future to a free, secure and honourable life."

He urged the brigade's personnel to be a good example for all their colleagues in the armed forces in the present and in the future, the same as they were in the past.

"I remember the brave men of this formation around me while we were under barages of fire. I remember them in the time of my sickness... and I remember their joy when I returned home (after having a surgery). I will remember them always in all conditions and circumstances as representing the whole armed forces as long as I live," he said.

Earlier, the mufti of the armed forces delivered an address paying tribute to the King's endeavours to develop the armed forces and voicing allegiance to the Hashemite leadership.

The commander of the Brigade delivered another address and thanked the King for promoting the Royal Guards formation into a brigade and pledged on behalf of the brigade's personnel to rise up to the level of the King's expectations.

He said the King's continued support and encouragement were the main factor for the brigade's good level of performance and its professionalism.

After the speeches the King handed the banner to the commander and presented awards to excellent personnel in training activities.

The celebration was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein and Prince

## Jordan 'comfortable' —Kabariti

(Continued from page 1)

was clear during Mr. Christopher's talks here, which covered bilateral ties as well as developments on other tracks of the negotiations, that the U.S. official had "guarded optimism" about the possibilities of making progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

## Jordan 'comfortable' —Kabariti

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Kabariti said he hoped that these two tracks would see positive developments that will lead to "an Israeli withdrawal (from occupied Syrian and Lebanese territories) to the borders of pre-June 4, 1967."

He also expressed hopes that difficulties in the Palestinian and Israeli negotiations will be resolved.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

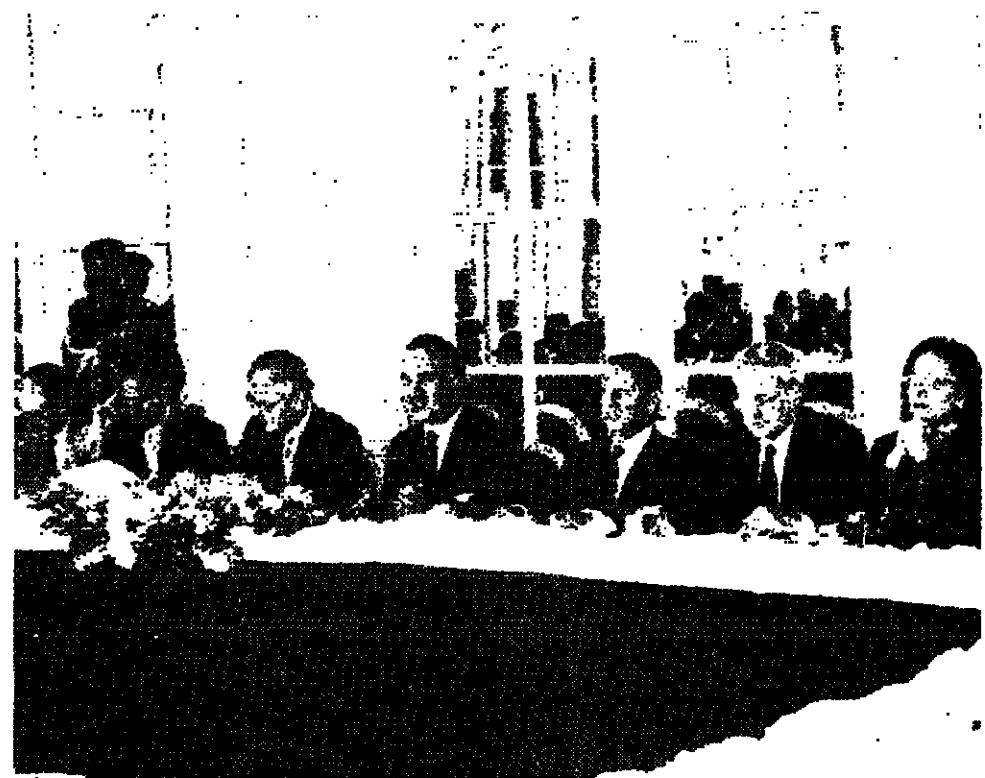
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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and British Prime Minister John Major, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and other officials at a meeting held Tuesday evening (photo by Youssef Allan)

## Dudayev vows Chechen suicide attacks in Russia

MOSCOW (R) — Chechen rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev threatened, in an interview published on Tuesday, to unleash kamikaze attacks on Russian cities to back his region's struggle for independence.

The threat, reported by the Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper, brought an immediate shutdown from the Russian Interior Ministry.

"Dudayev is bluffing again," a ministry official said by telephone. "We all remember how often he has promised to blow up Moscow since military action in Chechnya started."

"If terrorists strike, they have surprise on their side, but our services will neutralise them as soon as anything happens," Mr. Dudayev had threatened several times previously to retaliate for Moscow's military intervention in his breakaway Caucasus region with attacks in Russia and he has warned that civilians could die in any such assault.

This time he told Komsomolskaya Pravda: "Kamikaze units are being formed ... from those who are ready to die to avenge their fathers and children killed in bombing raids."

"When they squeeze into Russian cities, many innocent people may suffer," said Mr. Dudayev, who is leading the fight against Russian troops and tanks sent to the region on Dec. 11.

The newspaper said the interview took place in a Chechen village.

Mr. Dudayev said Chechen fighters had the addresses of those responsible for killing civilians in the rebel Caucasus region, which declared itself independent in 1991.

Moscow's troops seized control of the Chechen capital Grozny after weeks of bloody fighting, flattening



Dzhokhar Dudayev

much of the city in the process. They are now hunting rebel groups in the countryside.

Mr. Dudayev described the fighting in Chechnya as genocide rather than war.

"In the Soviet army there was always an understanding about honesty and conscience, about protecting civilian populations," he said.

"Things are completely different today. Killing has become heroism, marauding has become courage. And they give medals for that."

He said Chechnya had no shortage of arms or ammunition, saying that weapons had been bought from the Russian army during the fighting.

"I cannot say that I can arm all the Chechens who want to struggle for their independence. But we have arms we can fight with," he said.

Russia has stepped up security in its cities and around factories and strategic institutions to cope with Mr. Dudayev's threats. The Interior Ministry official said there would be no let up in vigilance.

"Armoured personnel carriers control all the entrances to Moscow. Interior Ministry troops, police and regular troops are carrying out joint patrols," he said.

## 3 women killed in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Islamic extremists killed three women Tuesday near Algiers, raising to seven the number killed since Saturday, the Algerian security service said.

Police have said they believe the attacks are part of a deliberate campaign to target the families of security personnel.

The three latest victims died in Reghaia, 15 kilometres east of Algiers, where suspected fundamentalists shot dead two teenage sisters, one of them engaged to a policeman, at the weekend.

In the attacks Tuesday, armed fundamentalists raided the home of Halima Toumi, 29, killing her and Hafida Bougera, 25.

In another attack a woman, named as Zineb, 39, was killed with her husband at their home in Reghaia. There was no word on whether any of the victims were linked to the security services.

On Saturday sisters Amel and Karima Guedjali, aged 19 and 18, were shot dead by three men in front of their father and their 13-year-old sister, two days after the expiry of an ultimatum issued by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) that dependants of security force members would be killed if arrested "women believers" were not freed.

The previous day a car-bomb exploded in a housing complex inhabited by policemen's families, injured 63 people, including eight children.

Islamic groups have also targeted women for failing to obey Islamic law.

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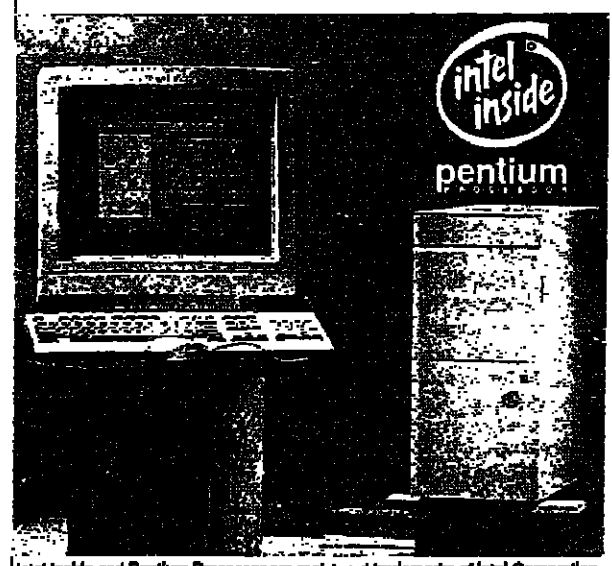
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# Egypt for business beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

## Land prices going up; construction slowing down

A REAL ESTATE broker says land trading is taking a new geographic direction as demand is high or land stretching south of Amman and along the Jordanian-Israeli border line. The broker says large profits are being reaped from such trade which boomed within a short period. With high returns on land trading, the construction activity has dropped sharply as statistics show a 40 per cent decline in building permits. Experts point out that land trading has become more profitable and that high prices for land is causing the slowdown in building activity (Al Aswaq).

THE POSTAL Savings Bank raised interest rates on ordinary saving accounts to six per cent and on saving for education accounts to seven per cent per annum (Al Ra'i).

IN ACCORDANCE with a new policy, the Tenders Department, will only award one tender to a contractor so as to spread projects among all contractors. It is expected that up to JD 200 million of projects will be awarded this year compared to projects valued at JD 117 million last year. In 1993, the department awarded projects valued at JD 176 million (Al Ra'i).

THE TOURISM Investment Department at the Social Security Corporation has prepared a marketing plan for resthouses and the Aqaba Hotel during 1995 at a cost of JD 3 million. According to the plan, thirty bungalows will be inaugurated at the Dead Sea Resthouse this month. A conference hall that can accommodate 500 persons will also be built at the Dead Sea Resthouse. The plan envisages completing the Petra Resthouse, transferring the Madaba Resthouse to the private sector, updating most of the bungalows at the Aqaba Hotel and easing the Dibeen Resthouse to the private sector (Al Ra'i).

THE HOUSING and Urban Development Department (HUDD) is negotiating with a number of local and foreign organisations regarding the feasibility of restructuring the housing sector including HUDD itself. IUD Director-General Husein Hiyasat said that after merging the Housing Corporation and the Urban Development Department into IUDD "the problems facing the housing sector were identified and the relationships with other government departments were organised so, as such, the climate has become suitable to proceed towards a qualitative step by restructuring HUDD." He added that the outcome could be to turn the department to a public shareholding company. Mr. Hiyasat stated that "once a final agreement is reached, the World Bank may participate in the financing" (Al Ra'i).

TOBACCO FARMERS are demanding that the government retract its decision to reduce the areas for planting tobacco from 58,000 to 29,000 dunums. The farmers complain that the decision was too late as it came after the end of the harvest season. They point out that some 50,000 people work in the tobacco industry, and cutting back on crop means added unemployment and poverty (Al Ra'i).

THE AGRICULTURAL Credit Corporation (ACC) has become the sole official government source of agricultural lending throughout the Kingdom after the government stopped the Cooperative Organisation and the Cooperative Bank from giving loans due to their financial incapacity (Dustour).

## State spending cuts pressure Arab Gulf gold market

DUBAI (R) — Bloated budget deficits and cuts in government spending in the Gulf are putting pressure on gold demand in the region, where analysts and traders expect a slow-down in sales this year. "The outlook for the Gulf (this year) is a slight decline over 1994 since the local economies are facing increasingly large budget deficits which translate into severe reductions in public expenditure," World Gold Council area manager for the Middle East and India, Pedro Bertran told Reuters.

Low world oil prices and huge infrastructure costs have prompted governments in the region to slash spending. However, Mr. Bertran said there was still some room for optimism for the gold trade and cited a rise in demand in Saudi Arabia in the fourth quarter of 1994 as an encouraging sign.

Last year demand in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) dropped 11 per cent in 207 tonnes. Dealers in UAE member Dubai, a world trading centre for the yellow metal, said the effects of public spending cuts were already evident in their sales. "Business is down this year, maybe about 40 per cent lower than last year," one trader said.

"Last year was definitely better than this year has been so far," said another. Government spending cuts have almost slashed disposable incomes. "People don't have the disposable income anymore, everything is getting so expensive and the public

doesn't save money," said one trader.

Sales during the last few days of the Islamic month of Ramadan, traditionally good for the gold market as people buy jewellery ahead of the Eid Al Fitr holiday, were very disappointing.

"Ramadan was very bad. People didn't spend on gold, they went to the hotels instead," said a trader, referring to the gatherings Muslims usually attend during the four-day Eid break.

Other disturbing trends seem to be emerging in the market. Some traders say Indian expatriates, traditionally large investors in the yellow metal, are gradually diversifying their investments, moving away from gold and towards shares back home.

"Indians are putting money into the share market rather than in gold," an Indian shopkeeper said. "This man used to buy gold when he had saved some money, now he has just bought shares," he said.

But Indians and other expatriates from the subcontinent as well as Arabs are still the main consumers of gold.

Mr. Bertran said that as the Indian and Pakistani economies open up, their reliance on Dubai as a trade centre would lessen. "You may anticipate that in the long run, both countries will go directly to the source," he said.

Another good source of demand for gold from the more than 400 gold shops in Dubai's downtown souk has, in the past, come from Rus-

sian tourists.

"But these days Russians aren't buying gold so much, they're buying electronics instead," said one trader.

Those Russians who are buying gold are only going for the cheaper, machine-made pieces for resale at home, traders said.

"We are making very little profit on sales to Russians, perhaps half a dirham (\$0.13) a gramme," a trader said.

Traders are holding out for a small recovery in the run-up to Indian school holidays in late June. "People like to buy gold before they go home for the summer. We hope sales will pick up then," said one.

## Coffee prices drop

LONDON (R) — Coffee prices fell almost seven per cent Tuesday morning in a sell-off by speculators and the coffee trade after surprise news of a raised U.S. crop estimate for Brazil, the world's biggest exporter.

"There was panic selling from both speculators and the trade," said a dealer.

London May rebust coffee futures were soon down to \$3.119 from a four-month traded high Monday of \$3.348.

The market largely ignored a new accord agreed by producers late Monday to curb exports if prices do not move higher soon, although this in time put a floor under the market.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture — also late Monday — estimated Brazil's 1995-96 crop at 16.7 to 18.2 million (60-kg) bags, up from a December forecast of 15.7 to 17.7 million.

"If anything, due to the dry weather in certain areas we thought the number might be lower," a U.S.-based trader said.

The Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC) led by Brazil agreed new triggers for coffee retention by 13 countries of 10 to 20 per cent of exports after an interval of 20 days from now. The new pricing triggers are just above current values.

But others said the producers would need unity to make the plan work whilst the high prices were likely to mean that coffee consumption remained stable.

## Minister awards ISO 9000 certificate to Jordanian firm

By Khattab Salman Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan will begin negotiations to enter the General Agreement of Tariff and Trade (GATT) in two months' time with the aim of becoming a full member in the international trade agreement in one to two years, Industry and Trade Minister Ali Abul Ragheb said Tuesday.

Mr. Abul Ragheb noted that this requires Jordan to improve its standards of manufacturing in order to compete in international markets once Jordanian markets are opened in accordance with GATT terms.

The minister, deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, was addressing a ceremony of awarding the first ISO 9000 standards certificate to Jordan Life & Crane Manufacturing Company (JOLIFT) by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Company.

Mr. Abul Ragheb conveyed congratulations from His Royal Highness to JOLIFT for this achievement.

He indicated that acquiring the certification would not only serve Jordanian companies as the Kingdom embarks to enter international and bilateral trade agreements, but would also be a prerequisite for bidding in public tenders in the Kingdom.

"There is a certain tendency on the part of the government that, after a grace period, all companies wanting to enter public tenders will have to carry the seal of approval," the minister emphasised.

He added that this issue will be taken into consideration when drafting the standards and specifications law.

The minister denied any government plans to give companies awarded the ISO 9000 certificate any special benefits from the state with regard to local specification procedures, but noted that benefits — in general — will be enjoyed by certified companies.

"There will be no special treatment for certified companies other than the increase of work volume and standard improvement, in addition to being able to bid in public tenders in the future

as indicated previously," he said.

Director General of JOLIFT, Moris Sawalha, said that his company invested JD 250,000 in the process of receiving the ISO 9000 certification. This, he said, covered fees, training, production adjustments and so forth.

He noted that what prompted the company to seek the certification was expanded international markets and the determination to maintain them.

"In mid 80's we entered the European markets, and by 1990 we established ourselves firmly in Europe. In the same year the Gulf war broke out while we were in the middle of negotiations to provide a project in London with lifts, and we could not continue the negotiations due to delivery difficulties caused by conditions in the region," Mr. Sawalha said.

He added that it was then that JOLIFT decided to work on the issue of acquiring the ISO 9000 certificate in order not to be hostage to regional conditions of exports, but for exports to be determined on competitive and quality standards.

JOLIFT is the first Jordanian company to receive this international quality standards certificate. The ISO 9001 quality standard include the functions of quality management system of design, manufacture, installation and maintenance services.

Lloyd's Register carried out a range of training and consultancy work with the company, assisting it in developing and documenting its quality management system as well as making various recommendations.

Lloyd's Register held several seminars for JOLIFT's management on the principles of quality management and quality control and the requirements of ISO 9001.

A trial assessment of the company's system was conducted last year and following Lloyd's Register's recommendations and changes in accordance with revisions to the standards themselves, JOLIFT applied for certification.

The company, which has a JD 1 million capital received the certificate on Jan 22.

Financial Markets			
in co-operation with			
Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	Head/ash Close	New York Close	
	13/3/95	14/3/95	
Sterling Pound	1.5929	1.5896**	
Deutsche Mark	1.4070	1.4102	
Swiss Franc	1.1740	1.1757**	
French Franc	5.0020	5.0100**	
Japanese Yen	90.75	90.95	
European Currency Unit	1.2045	1.2071**	

Eurocurrency Interest Rates			
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.82	6.00	6.18
Sterling Pound	6.12	6.35	6.67
Deutsche Mark	4.88	4.75	4.93
Swiss Franc	3.31	3.50	3.62
French Franc	7.75	7.75	7.50
Japanese Yen	2.00	2.00	2.00
European Currency Unit	6.96	6.93	6.93

Precious Metals			
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal
Gold	385.75	7.70	Silver
			4.74

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900	
Sterling Pound	1.0918	1.0973	
Deutsche Mark	0.4878	0.4905	
Swiss Franc	0.5841	0.5870	
French Franc	0.1371	0.1376	
Japanese Yen	0.7569	0.7607	
Dutch Guilder	0.4349	0.4371	
Swedish Krona	*****	*****	
Italian Lira	0.0409	0.0411	
Belgian Franc	*****	*****	

Other Currencies			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1.8100	1.8250	
Lebanese Lira	0.041785	0.042790	
Saudi Riyal	0.1651	0.1681	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3000	2.3500	
Qatari Riyal	0.1873	0.1891	
Egyptian Pound	0.1650	0.2085	
Omani Riyal	1.2790	1.7910	
UAE Dirham	0.1868	0.1878	
Greek Drachma	0.2755	0.3285	
Cypriot Pound	1.4445	1.5570	

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.4164/74	Canadian dollar
	1.4096/06	Deutsche marks
	1.5808/18	Dutch guilders
	1.1740/50	Swiss francs
	29.14/18	Belgian francs
	5.0195/45	French francs
	1683.0/8.0	Italian lire
	91.17/27	Japanese yen
	7.2450/50	Swedish crowns
	6.2990/40	Norwegian crowns
	6.6685/35	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.5858/68	
One ounce of gold	\$385.20/385.70	

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET			
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ORGANISED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 14/03/1995			
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED	PREV. CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PSC	580	109125	188.250
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	11500	56575	2.490
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	10900	46107	4.230
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	13250	19470	1.500
THE HOUSING BANK	3250	19830	6.020
JORDAN GULF BANK	500	610	1.220
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	3950	14799	3.770
BUSINESS BANK	5000	14500	3.410
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	200	756	3.860
BEIT KHALIL SAVING INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	1950	5877	3.050
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	14500	15515	1.090
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	5400	6772	1.320
BANKS SECTOR	72310	311720	INDEX NUMBER: 158.65
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	2050	4982	2.450
INSURANCE SECTOR	2050	4982	INDEX NUMBER: 136.30
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	7150	10983	1.570
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	5750	8486	1.490
VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	250	1663	6.750
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	5100	2545	2.000
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS / NEW	600	2760	4.600
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	14250	44796	3.270
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	500	1025	2.050
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	200	220	1.150
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	500	435	.920
SERVICES SECTOR	34300	95613	INDEX NUMBER: 128.67
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	200	5800	30.000
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	16502	49562	2.990
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	10	93	9.300
THE JORDAN WORTSTED MILLS	1900	14131	7.450
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	19250	77872	4.100
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	3450	9292	2.700
RAJIA INDUSTRIES	7950	21748	2.790
DAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	5710	44526	7.870
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	6200	5215	.870
ARAB AUTUMN GALLERY	850	5440	6.400
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	32550	20585	.660
JORDAN PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	3350	4559	1.390
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	2700	9750	3.580
ALANDIN INDUSTRIES	1000	4150	4.150
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACHINERY	2650	1723	.680
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	900	775	1.580
ARAB CHEMICALS & PETROLEUM CHEMICALS	1650	3923	2.380
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	4400	17734	4.100
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	5075	10102	2.040
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	115987	307019	INDEX NUMBER: 119.72
GRAND TOTAL	224647	719333	INDEX NUMBER: 140.48
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	150911		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	171718		

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## Grobelaar and Segers arrested

SOUTHAMPTON (Agencies) — Goalkeepers Bruce Grobelaar of Southampton and Hans Segers of Wimbledon and Aston Villa striker John Fashanu were arrested Tuesday in connection with match-fixing allegations, police said.

Also arrested were a Malaysian businessman and Fashanu's girlfriend. Police arrested Zimbabwian-born Grobelaar at his home in Hampshire, Southern England, shortly before 0700 GMT and took him to the local station for questioning.

Wimbledon goalkeeper Hans Segers was arrested at his home in Hampshire at the same time.

The detective leading inquiries said other people had also been arrested but declined to give details. First unconfirmed reports said another four people were being held.

No charges have yet been brought.

The arrests follow a four-month investigation into allegations that Grobelaar, who plays for Southampton, was offered bribes to swing the result of soccer matches for a shadowy group of Asian gamblers.

Police also said Melissa Kassimatis — girlfriend of Aston Villa player John Fashanu — had been arrested

at her London home. "A number of people have been arrested...there are connections with the football world," detective Chief Inspector Ron Davies told BBC radio.

He said Grobelaar was arrested "on suspicion of being involved in a conspiracy to defraud that relates to allegations of corruption involving football league

matches."

Asked whether the flamboyant goalkeeper would be formally charged on Tuesday, Davis said "I am not prepared to speculate on the outcome of what happens today."

Grobelaar, 37, has strenuously denied the charges and has carried on playing soccer both for Southampton and for his national side Zimbabwe.



Disgraced Chelsea and England midfielder Dennis Wise enters London's Magistrate's Court where he was sentenced to three months for assaulting a taxi driver (AFP photo)

babwe.

England's Football Association (F.A.) has, however, already charged him with improper conduct liable to bring the game into disrepute.

The charges, which first surfaced in a British newspaper last November, relate to Grobelaar's 13-year career with Liverpool.

The newspaper accused him of accepting a £40,000 (\$64,000) bribe to "throw" a Liverpool match with Newcastle in November 1993. Liverpool lost the match 3-0.

Grobelaar, English soccer's most successful goalkeeper, won almost every honour in the game with Liverpool including six League titles, three F.A. Cup Winners' medals and the European Cup in 1984.

The arrests marked the latest blow to the image of English soccer, which has suffered a series of scandals this season.

Manchester United striker Eric Cantona has been suspended until next October for his flying kick on a taunting Crystal Palace spectator. Cantona and teammate Paul Ince have both been charged with assault in the incident and face a court appearance March 23.

Chelsea and England mid-



File photo of English football's best-known goalkeeper Bruce Grobelaar who was arrested Tuesday on match-fixing allegations (AFP photo)

freed on bail pending an appeal.

George Graham was fired as Arsenal manager last

month and charged with misconduct by the FA for allegedly receiving under-the-table transfer payments.

## Soccer on an uneven pitch — an Asian tradition

HONG KONG (AFP) — Gambling on soccer matches is virtually a pastime in itself in Southeast Asia where betting syndicates are said to have tempted several players

in Europe.

A Far East syndicate is said to be at the centre of the activities that led to the arrests of star English goalkeepers Bruce Grobelaar

and Hans Segers on Tuesday as part of a bribery inquiry. News of the arrests brought little comment from the Asian football authorities who are busy trying to handle corruption on a vast scale.

More than 120 players in Malaysia have been arrested and most banished to internal exile. Czech player Michael Vana fled Singapore where he faces charges over match fixing. A FIFA registered re-

free has already been tried there.

Betting on soccer in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore is said to be worth tens of millions of dollars a year.

The Asian Football Confederation has known about it for years but says it has been powerless to anything. AFC general secretary, Peter Velappan, said at the time the Grobelaar allegations

were first made in a British newspaper that he would not be surprised "if they are just the tip of the iceberg."

The organisation is very sophisticated and wide-ranging. Bets are made not just on the result of a match.

Gamblers put money on when the first goal is scored, the first yellow card shown and the half-time score. There are even multipliers linking all the different de-

tails. "It is a vast operation and a very social thing," said one Asian soccer official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Everyone knows where they can place a bet. It is just a telephone call away."

Malaysian sources explained the system. "There are plenty of matches where you know one side is stronger than the other and is bound to win," said one.

## St Petersburg to bid for 2004 Olympics

ST PETERSBURG (R) — St Petersburg, venue of the 1994 Goodwill Games, is planning a bid to host the 2004 Summer Olympics.

"St Petersburg is ready to stage not only the Summer Olympics, but the winter, fall, spring and any other ones as well," stressed Russian Olympic Committee spokeswoman Svetlana Smirnova.

The city, Russia's former home to the Tsars, joins 13 other cities which have said they want to host the 28th summer Olympics. Cape Town, Istanbul, San Juan and Seville have already submitted formal applications.

Moscow hosted the Summer Games in 1980, although athletes from many countries boycotted the event in protest at the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi applied to host the 2002 Winter Olympics, but the town, better known as a summer vacation centre for Soviet-era leaders than as a winter sports centre, did not make it on to the shortlist of four candidate cities.

"Ever since Sochi fell off the list, St Petersburg has got very excited about applying and keeping Russia's hope alive," said Yelena Kalinovskaya of the St Petersburg mayor's sports committee.

St Petersburg spent \$2 million to remodel its Soviet-era sports facilities for the third Goodwill Games last year, the biggest international sporting event to be held in Russia since the Soviet Union fell apart in 1991.

Several problems in this traditionally cold, breezy city provoked charges that St Petersburg was ill-prepared to stage a high-profile sports event.

About 65,000 athletes, organisers and tourists turned out for the internationally-televised event, packing the city's hotels and leaving people scrambling for flights through its international airport.

"Lillehammer was a stick in the woods when it bid for the 1992 Winter Olympics but then they spent eight years building the facilities they needed," Smirnova said. "If they can do it, so can we."

The IOC will select the winner in September 1997.

## Faisali lose again in Cairo

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Al Faisali Tuesday suffered a big 5-1 defeat to Tunisia's Al Mustaqbal in their first round match at the 5th Arab Cup Winners' Championship in Cairo.

Al Faisali thus wrapped up their participation with three defeats after having lost 1-0 to Egyptian champions Al Ahli and Qatar's Al Arabi.

Al Ahli and Al Mustaqbal qualified to the second round from Group A, while Group B qualifiers are likely to be Saudi Arabia's Al Shabab and Olympic of Morocco who are seeking their fourth straight title.

The other teams in the tournament are Al Qadisiyah of Kuwait and Palestine's Rafah.

Although Al Faisali had lost their first two matches, the team had appeared in good form and were highly praised by Egyptian media especially after they only conceded one goal to the powerful Egyptian host team.

However Al Faisali displayed the exact opposite in their match against Al Mustaqbal in which Al Faisali's defence seemed at a loss and allowed their opponents to score easily.

The team lacked the efforts of key striker Jirjes Tadros who sat out the match with an aggravated injury. Subhi Suleiman and Jamal Abu Abed lost some chances but the Tunisian team totally dominated the match and missed some easy shots of their own.

Karim Qarawi opened scoring in the 7th minute, but Al Faisali's Firas Al Khalalish netted his team's equaliser and their only goal in the championship seven minutes later.

Al Faisali were heartened after the goal and Subhi Suleiman's powerful shot missed the goal by inches.

However, the Tunisian team totally set the pace midway through the half as the game's top player Abu Baker Juwarrah took advantage of a defensive error to score his team's second goal in the 21st minute.

Sixteen minutes later, Al Mustaqbal's Murad Majdoub scored his team's third goal from exactly the same spot and defensive error by Al Faisali, thus ending the first half 3-1.

Five minutes into the second half, Al Mustaqbal's Abu Baker added the fourth goal when Al Faisali's Walid Mahmoud, a replacement goalie for the injured Anis Shafiq, dropped the ball as he jumped to save a powerful shot.

Al Faisali again replaced their goalie with Ali Mahmoud, a newcomer from Al Wihdat who signed for Al Faisali this season.

The Tunisians lost an easy attempt in the tenth minute as three of their players faced an open goal but missed the shot.

Al Faisali's Subhi Suleiman and Jamal Abu Abed led their team's attacks but lacked accurate finishing.

Al Mustaqbal's Adel Jabbari sealed his team's win when he netted the fifth goal in the 39th minute to secure his team's qualification to the second round.

Meanwhile Kuwait's Qadisiyah beat the Palestinian Shebab Rafah team 4-0.

All the goals were scored in the second half, in the 47th, 56th, 67th and 81st minutes. Hemed Al Saleh scored twice.

Saudi Arabia's Al Shabab beat Moroccan Al Olympic 1-0.

Al Shabab's Khaled El-Dussary scored the only goal at the 84th minute.

The tournament is being organised by Egypt's leading soccer team, Al Ahli, in association with the Arab Football Federation. The tournament ends March 19.

## Tapie trial resumes

VALENCIENNES. (AFP)

Jean-Jacques Eydelie, the alleged go-between told a court here on Tuesday that Bernard Tapie had not ordered the match-fixing which secured Olympique Marseille's fifth successive league title in 1993.

"To my knowledge he didn't know about it," the former Marseille player said after proceeding resumed following a clash between Tapie and his former general manager and co-accused Jean-Pierre Bernes.

Bernes told the court on Monday he had followed Tapie's orders when he and Eydelie offered three Valenciennes players 200,000 francs (\$40,000) each to throw the match.

Presiding judge Bernard Langlade had cleared the court after Bernes' lawyer Gilbert Collard accused Tapie of threatening his client.

Tapie, 52, faces two years' jail and a 200,000 franc (\$40,000) fine for bribery and three years' jail and a 20,000 franc fine for interfering with witnesses.

The other defendants are former Valenciennes players Christophe Robert and Argentina's 1986 and 1990 World Cup star Jorge Buruchaga. Robert's wife, Marie-Christine, is charged with complicity.

Tapie is also charged with trying to make the then Valenciennes coach Boro Pri-

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<b>PHILADELPHIA</b>		<b>PLAZA</b>		<b>CONCORD</b>		<b>AMMOUN THEATRE</b>	<b>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</b>	<b>Nabil &amp; Hisham's AHLAN THEATRE</b>
Richard Gere & Sharon Stone in <b>INTERSECTION</b>		Patrick Swayze in <b>Father Hood</b>		Comedian star: Adel Imam — <b>Bakhit &amp; Andadileh</b>		Mousa Hijazin "Sumaah" in the political comedy <b>"Hi Citizen"</b>	Presents <b>Abu Awwad</b> in the social comedy <b>Punctured Bag</b>	Presents: <b>AL SALAM YA SALAM</b>
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00		Author and Director: Mohammad Al Shawaqfeh Daily starting 8:30 p.m. Monday is the weekly holiday	The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day	at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed Saturdays & Sundays
				<b>CONCORD '2'</b>				
				Jean-Claude Van Dam in <b>STREET FIGHTER</b>				
				Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 11:00				



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Cairo

# Sports

## European Champions Cup Roundup

LONDON (R) — Analysis of Wednesday's European Champions' Cup quarter-final, second leg matches:

**Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) V. Hajduk**

First leg: Hajduk 0 Ajax 0  
Previous meetings: 1993-94 — Cup Win-  
ners' Cup first round, first leg Hajduk 1 Ajax  
second leg Ajax 6 Hajduk 0.

Ajax coach Louis Van Gaal has named a  
man squad after doubts about the fitness of  
Ikers Patrick Kluyvert (ankle injury) and  
Eric Overmars (thigh strain).  
Hajduk striker Ivica Moric and skipper  
Dan Vukic are out with injury, while defen-  
der Darko Butorovic is suspended.

**Benfica (Portugal) V. AC Milan (Italy)**

First leg: AC Milan 2 Benfica 0  
Previous meetings: 1962-63 — Champions'  
cup final in London Milan 2 Benfica 1.  
89-90 — Champions' Cup final in Vienna  
Milan 1 Benfica 0.

Benfica face the defending champions after  
unlucky 1-0 home defeat by struggling  
Vicente on Sunday, leaving them trailing  
Paris by eight points.

Argentine striker Claudio Caniggia returns  
their attack after illness, but Brazilian  
forward Carlos Mozer is suspended.  
Milan coach Fabio Capello rested captain  
Marco Baresi, Marcel Desailly and Dejan  
Stankovic for the 1-0 win over Padova.  
But they are certain to return, leaving only  
key absentee, suspended midfielder De-  
trio Albertini.

**IFK Gothenburg (Sweden) V. Bayern**

First leg: Bayern Munich 0 IFK Gothen-  
burg 0  
No previous meetings.

Bayern go into the match on the back of a

dismal showing in the league. Club president  
Franz Beckenbauer described their perform-  
ance in the 1-1 draw against Duisburg as  
"pathetic."

And he said: "I won't accept the team were  
saving themselves for Gothenburg, because  
anyone who thinks we can win the European  
Cup is dreaming. Our chances are 100,000-to-  
one."

Swiss midfielder Alain Sutter could return  
after injury, but Christian Ziege could be out  
with knee ligament problems.

Gothenburg winger Jesper Blomqvist has  
been passed fit following a flu virus.

**Paris St. Germain (France) V. Barcelona**

First leg: Barcelona 1 Paris St. Germain 1  
No previous meetings

## Match Analysis

Paris SG coach Luis Fernandez will opt for  
an all-out attack at the Parc Des Princes.  
He has confirmed that David Ginola will  
partner Liberia's George Weah in attack "in  
an offensive looking team."

Brazil's Valdo and Rai will support them as  
attacking midfielders.

His main problem is in defence, with  
Brazilian libero Ricardo injured and Alain  
Roche suspended.

Barcelona suffered a 2-0 league defeat by  
struggling Atletico Madrid on Saturday, but  
coach Johan Cruyff said: "This will not affect  
us. In Paris we will be playing in a different  
competition, on a different pitch and with a  
different line-up."

Romanian international midfielder Gheor-  
gie Hagi will be in the Barcelona squad for  
the first time since injuring a leg muscle four  
weeks ago.

## Sweet revenge as Sampras defeats Agassi

INDIAN WELLS (AFP) — World number one Pete Sampras came up with big serves on big points here Monday to beat number two Andre Agassi 7-5, 6-3, 7-5 in the final of the ATP Champions Cup.

The victory was a measure of revenge for Sampras, who lost to Agassi in four sets in the final of the Australian Open. And it slowed Agassi's march toward Sampras' number one ranking.

He stretched his career record over Agassi to 8-6. Agassi who had lost only one of his 20 previous matches this year, and had not dropped a set in this tournament, could not get the better of Sampras' serve.

Sampras blasted 18 aces and 28 service winners.

"If there is one shot that kind of did it for me it was my serve. I kind of live and die by it, and I served a lot of huge serves at 15-30, 30-all. That was really the difference."

Fittingly, he won the match with an ace on his first match point after two hours and 12 minutes.

"He served huge from start to finish," Agassi said. "I had him love-30 and he held with first serves. Then I had him 15-30 a couple of times where he ended the game with three first serves. That is rough."

Sampras also returned well, volleyed well, and matched Agassi at his own baseline game with deep, accurate groundstrokes.

"I didn't quite feel like I was dictating play like I normally do from the ground," Agassi said. "I even started coming in a little bit more because I was frustrated with the fact that I wasn't as sharp



Pete Sampras

as I usually am."

He admitted his father's open heart surgery, sched-  
uled for Tuesday, was on his mind. But he refused to blame the loss on that distraction.

"Anybody who has a dad who is going into heart surgery...it is different thing to deal with," he said. Agassi had four chances to

break Sampras, but capital-  
ised on only one, in the fifth  
game of the opening set.  
Sampras immediately broke  
back, then got the decisive  
break in the 12th game.

Sampras broke Agassi  
again in the fourth game of  
the second set to lead 3-1.  
Agassi parried a set point in  
the ninth game, but Sampras  
won it with an ace in the 10th.

## Leading money winners

Leading money winners in men's tennis as released by the ATP Tour on Tuesday:

1. Andre Agassi (U.S.)	\$549,760	7. Wayne Ferreira (S. Africa)	\$249,439
2. Richard Krajicek (Neth)	\$511,409	8. Paul Haarhuis (Neth)	\$241,823
3. Pete Sampras (U.S.)	\$469,580	9. Stefan Edberg (Sweden)	\$217,851
4. Boris Becker (Ger)	\$363,293	10. Thomas Enqvist (Sweden)	\$211,898
5. Michael Stich (Ger)	\$303,578	11. Michael Chang (U.S.)	\$202,210
6. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russ)	\$296,114	12. Martin Damm (Czech Rep)	\$204,818
		13. Magnus Larsson (Sweden)	\$196,877
		14. Todd Martin (U.S.)	\$195,796
		15. Grant Connell (Canada)	\$169,455

## Tomba all set to take crown

RMIO, Italy (R) — Alberto Tomba, whose per-  
formance have rescued an  
erwise wretched winter of  
pine skiing, will be  
crowned World Cup cham-  
pion at the season's finals  
ch begin on Wednesday.  
The triple Olympic cham-  
pion's class has shone  
ough the gloom of a sea-  
son which bad weather has  
yed havoc with the calen-  
dar and forced the postpone-  
ment of the world cham-  
pionships scheduled for  
ain's Sierra Nevada in  
bruary.

A crowd of 50,000 is ex-  
tended to pack this Italian  
n — site of the 1985 world  
championships — to acclaim  
onal hero Tomba when  
he races the giant slalom on  
Friday and slalom the fol-  
lowing day.

Tomba will not compete in  
er Wednesday's downhill  
he super-giant slalom on  
rsday but is almost cer-  
of having the overall title  
up before he even ar-  
s here.

he Italian, winner of 10  
s this season, has 1,050  
d cup points and closest  
lenger Jure Kosir of  
enia (700) cannot over-  
him as he will not race  
downhill.

ve-times World Cup  
pion Marc Girardelli  
) has a mathematical  
ce of beating Tomba but  
d need to win all four  
and hope the Italian to  
score any points.

Tomba had it wrapped up  
months ago," admitted  
mbourg's Girardelli.  
e scene is set for a great  
as the home nation is in  
a chance of sweeping all  
men's titles in Bormio.

mba has already claimed  
slalom and heads the  
slalom while compatri-  
Kristian Ghedina and  
Runggaldier lead the  
hill and super-giant  
ings respectively.

endina must hold off  
chman Luc Alphand  
Austrian Armin Assin-  
nd Patrick Ortlieb in the  
hill on Wednesday.

Italian has 433 points,  
nd 384, Assinger 383  
former Olympic cham-  
Ortlieb 381.

e standings were  
led on Monday when  
ternational Ski Federa-  
led that a race won by  
Pietro Vitalini last  
ay on the Norwegian  
ic piste at Kvitfjell was  
as bad weather pre-  
t all the athletes from  
ting.

strian all-rounder  
her Mader is Rungg-  
closest rival in the  
G, the home racer tak-  
38-point lead into  
ay's final.

s Vreni Schneider, like  
a triple Olympic  
ion, heads the battle  
women's overall title.  
the title holder faces  
competition from Ger-  
lympic downhill cham-  
atja Seizinger and fel-  
wiss Heidi Zeller-

## NBA ROUNDUP

WASHINGTON (AFP) — National Basketball Association results and standings after Monday's games.

RESULTS			
Washington	106	Charlotte	103
Houston	97	Atlanta	86
L.A. Lakers	93	Indiana	91
Dallas	130	Golden State	125

## Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct.
Orlando*	48	14	.774
New York	39	21	.650
New Jersey	25	37	.403
Boston	24	37	.393
Miami	23	38	.377
Philadelphia	17	44	.279
Washington	17	44	.279

## Central Division

	W	L	Pct.
Charlotte	39	23	.629
Indiana	37	24	.607
Cleveland	35	26	.574
Atlanta	31	31	.500
Chicago	31	31	.500
Detroit	23	38	.377
Milwaukee	23	39	.371

## Western Conference

Midwest Division			
	W	L	Pct.
Utah	46	16	.742
San Antonio	41	18	.695
Houston	37	24	.607
Denver	29	32	.475
Dallas	23	36	.399
Minnesota	17	45	.274

## Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.
Phoenix	46	16	.742
Seattle	41	19	.683
L.A. Lakers	38	23	.623
Portland	33	27	.550
Sacramento	30	30	.500
Golden State	19	42	.311
L.A. Clippers	13	50	.206

\* Clinched playoff berth

## Austrian Airlines Reception

Austrian Airlines is holding a reception for travel agents on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 13/14/15 March 1995 at Abu-Aldahab Centre in which a bowling championship will be included and prizes that have been received from different commercial companies will be distributed to the winners.

On this occasion, Austrian Airlines would like to take this opportunity to thank the following companies on their generosity: 1. Austrian Tourist Board, 2. Petra Travel & Tourism Company, 3. Issa Murad Company, 4. Astra Establishment, 5. Coca Cola Company.

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## Lotus reappears as faint shadow of championship-winning team

LONDON (AFP) — Team Lotus will reappear on the Grand Prix circuits of the world this year, but only as a faint shadow of the team that won 13 World Championships in the 1960s and 70s.

The historic Lotus logo and a green stripe will feature on the cars from one of the newest teams in the sport, Pacific, starting only its second year in Formula One.

But Lotus's new owner can foresee a future in which the Formula One team, second only to Ferrari in fame and longevity, might again compete directly for the Championships. Briton David Hunt bought the team directly for the Championships. Briton David Hunt bought the ruins of Team Lotus

when it collapsed under "towering debts," estimated at some £10 million, late last year.

The younger brother of the late World Champion James Hunt and a sometime Formula 3000 racer himself, Hunt is now a successful businessman. He joked recently that he had become rich "by avoiding motor racing, and now I've made the cardinal mistake of coming back in."

He said his return was motivated by concern at the possible complete disappearance of the team, founded by the late Colin Chapman, one of the great innovators of the sport.

"Team Lotus is the second oldest name in Grand Prix racing, it's part of the Grand Prix 'circus,' Hunt said.

"If you were to take away team Lotus and Ferrari, you would be taking away much of the excitement for a huge number of fans who are dedicated and loyal fans to those two teams."

Hunt strenuously sought sponsorship to keep racing, but on January 17 had to fire most Lotus staff and withdraw the team's Grand Prix entry. By early February he had formed what is essentially a marketing alliance with Pacific, owned by Keith Wiggins and located a few miles from Lotus in eastern England.

Pacific is "unquestionably the most likely team outside the top five to be a significant force over the next years," said Hunt.

## Baggio rules himself out

TURIN (R) — Roberto Baggio on Monday ruled himself out of Italy's next two soccer internationals pending a return to full fitness.

The Juventus striker announced his unavailability for the key European championship qualifiers against Estonia and Ukraine towards the end of the month despite returning to club soccer with a vengeance after a three months layoff with a knee injury.

"I am standing down from the national squad," Baggio, 27, told reporters.

"It's a normal decision because I've been out of the game for three months and I'm still not back to peak form," he said.

Baggio, who fired Italy to the 1994 World Cup final and was FIFA's world player of the year in 1993, had exploratory "keyhole" surgery in his right knee early last

month, two months after rein-  
juring the joint in a league  
match against Padova.

The examination showed no serious damage and Baggio returned to club soccer last week, sharing in Juventus's Italian Cup semifinal win against Lazio and then scoring a fine goal from a free kick as the league leaders beat Foggia 2-0 on Sunday.

But Baggio said there were other, more in-form players for Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi to choose from.

"The people who should be playing are the ones that are fitter than I am. There are a lot of them about at the moment," he said.

Italy have made an unimpressive start to their campaign for a place in the 1996 European Championship finals, lying third in group four with just four points from three matches.

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# Clinton to block oil deal with Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton said Monday he will block a U.S. oil company's subsidiary deal to develop two Gulf oil fields for Iran because the arrangement undermines his efforts to crack down on Tehran.

Mr. Clinton, in a statement issued by the White House, said he would soon issue an executive order barring U.S. citizens or companies from entering into contracts for the financing, supervision or management of oil development projects in Iran.

"We need to send a clear and unequivocal message to Iran: There cannot be normal relations until Iran's unacceptable behaviour changes," White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry said in the statement about the deal by a subsidiary of Conoco, a Houston-based oil company.

Aides said an executive order was being drafted but may not be signed for several days.

The deal was the first involving a U.S. oil company and Iran since 1979, when the United States banned commercial trade with Iran in the wake of the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran by militants. It came under sharp criticism by the State Department after it was announced last week.

White House officials said Mr. Clinton signed off on the policy Tuesday morning.

The Houston Post, the Texas newspaper that first reported the administration's plans, said some officials suggested that Conoco asked for an executive order blocking the deal by a Dutch subsidiary to provide a graceful way out.

Mr. McCurry said the administration "worked cooperatively" with Conoco executives in formulating the policy. "The president appreciates the willingness of Conoco to work with us on this important issue," Mr. McCurry said.

Jim Felder, a Conoco spokesman, said earlier he was unaware of a company request for an executive order.

The administration has said the Conoco deal runs counter to U.S. policy to isolate and punish Iran for supporting "terrorism" and trying to develop nuclear weapons.

On Tuesday, Mr. McCurry made those two allegations against Tehran and accused the Iranian government of undermining the Middle East peace process. He said the international community has tried to bring Iran into line with economic sanctions.

"To allow U.S. companies to finance or manage the development of Iran's (oil) resources would contribute to Iran's productive capacity and its economic and financial strength," Mr. McCurry said.

He said the United States would continue to review "other economic measures with respect to Iran."

The deal also faced opposition from three influential board members of Conoco's parent company, Dupont, the New York Times reported Tuesday.

The three are Edgar M. Bronfman, co-chairman of Seagram Co., Charles R. Bronfman, co-chairman and chairman of the executive committee, and Edgar Bronfman Jr., president and chief executive of Seagram, the Times said.

Edgar M. Bronfman also is president of the World Jewish Congress.

Mr. Seagram owns 24.2 per cent of Dupont and therefore controls a fourth of the votes on the Dupont board.

Seagram spokesman Chris Tofall told the Times that Edgar M. Bronfman could not be reached for comment, but added that "the board would never act inconsistent with U.S. policy."

Dupont spokesman Mike Riccio told the Times the board would act soon on the deal. The Times did not cite specific sources in reporting on the Bronfmans' expected vote, which the newspaper said made approval unlikely.

Mr. Felder said the negative reaction to the deal was a surprise.

"I think our focus was on the business arrangement. Perhaps we misjudged the considerations on the policy interpretations," he said.

"We're trying to work through that now."

In order to comply with federal law, Conoco arranged the deal as a contract between the National Iranian Oil Company and Conoco Iran N.Y., a Dutch affiliate.

# Royal Guards Brigade formed

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday attended a ceremony to celebrate the formation of the Royal Guards Brigade and naming it "Hamzeh Ben Abdul Muttalib Brigade."

In a Royal Decree issued earlier Tuesday, the King commended a high level of performance of the brigade and the efficiency of its officers and personnel.

At the celebration, the King presented the commander of the force with the Hamzeh Ben Abdul Muttalib banner (Hamzeh Ben Abdul Muttalib was the Prophet Mohammad's uncle and is named the master of martyrs).

The King who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, was received at the celebration site by Prime Minister



King Hussein delivered an address and Defence Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai. (Continued on page 7)

# Column

## Danish doctor, African group win Population Awards

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Danish head of the International Planned Parenthood Federation and an African group fighting against female circumcision were named winners of the 1995 U.N. Population Award. The citations are given annually by a vote from a committee on population made up of delegates from various member states and headed by Netherlands Ambassador Nicholas Biegan, who announced the winners. One award went to the Inter-African Committee of Traditional Practices, an Ethiopian-based organization which has branches in 23 African nations. Founded in 1984, it seeks to fight practices harmful to women and children such as female genital mutilation and the force-feeding of women and girls in countries where weight is considered attractive. Mr. Biegan said the group also tries to promote other traditional practices, such as prolonged breastfeeding. Circumcision on young girls is practiced in about 26 African countries with Djibouti, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Mali in the forefront. The other award went to Dr. Haldrup Mahler, secretary-general of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, for his leadership of that group as well as his activities while he headed the U.N. World Health Organisation from 1973 to 1978.

# U.S., Israel conduct joint exercises in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. and Israeli forces are conducting joint land, sea and air exercises in Israel this month, including manoeuvres in the Nagab desert, officials said Monday.

One U.S. marine was shot in the hand Sunday and brought to Soroka hospital in Beersheba.

Over the next three weeks, U.S. Sixth Fleet ships and American aircraft will participate in the exercises along with about 7,500 U.S. troops, said U.S. embassy spokesman Richard Scorza.

Combined exercises and joint manoeuvres have taken place periodically since Israel and the United States signed a strategic cooperation agreement in 1982. But details are rarely released, except for medical evacuation exercises.

No overall scenario was defined for the exercise, according to U.S. and Israeli officials. The manoeuvres were "not related to any fear of the real world," said a U.S. statement.

The low profile was apparently designed to prevent protests from Arab countries.

For Israel, the manoeuvres were seen as a boost.

"Military, there is no doubt that this sort of joint cooperation gives visible strength and content to the strategic backing the United States is affording Israel. It is a boost for Israeli technology, as well," said Amram Mitzna, mayor of the city of Haifa and a retired major general.

Haifa is a major service port for the U.S. Sixth Fleet. Exercises got underway over the weekend despite a strike at Israel's shipyards in Haifa that initially threatened to delay the manoeuvres.

The exercises coincided with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region, but the U.S.

statement said there was no mission being exercised that would involve peacekeeping.

Israel's desire to have U.S. troops separate Syrian and Israeli forces in the Golan Heights has become a sensitive political issue. Right-wing Israelis and some members of the U.S. Congress are questioning whether such involvement would lead to a Somalia-like entanglement.

Israel's Channel Two television showed a pair of U.S. Chinook transport helicopters in the air and said the exercises were in their second day Monday.

Helicopters were spotted over Beersheba on Sunday, and witnesses said American helicopters were seen along the Mediterranean coast north of Tel Aviv, as well.

One official said light armoured vehicles and special rocket launchers were involved in the exercise in the desert.

Mr. Scorza said U.S. ships and aircraft were involved in the training but declined to give details. A Western attaché who demanded anonymity said U.S. Navy ships and American helicopters were seen in the Haifa area.

The target of the training, Mr. Scorza said, was to sharpen skills and "try to improve unit readiness."

The Israeli army spokesman said only that U.S. forces were currently training in Israel and using Israeli facilities. It added that the date for the exercise had been set "several years in advance."

The daily Al Hamishmar said U.S. military forces began a land exercise in the desert on Sunday. It said the operation will continue for several days. It said U.S. military officers arrived in Israel over the past few months to prepare the exercise.

# Lebanon observes strike, calls for end to Israeli occupation

NABATIYEH (Agencies) — The government held an unprecedented meeting in South Lebanon on Tuesday in a show of solidarity against Israel's occupation of a border strip, as Israeli shells crashed onto nearby fields.

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri chaired the session in the town of Nabatiyeh, just a few kilometres from Israeli positions, to mark the 17th anniversary of the first Israeli invasion of the south on March 14, 1978.

Israeli shells fell on nearby fields of the unprecedented cabinet meeting in south Lebanon, following guerrilla attacks on Israel's self-declared "security zone" along the border.

As Israeli warplanes patrolled the skies above the Nabatiyeh region, demonstrators burnt Israeli flags to cries of "Death to Israel" and "Death to America."

Both Muslims and Christians observed a general strike across Lebanon, apart from in the "security zone."

Schools, shops and offices were closed, with only bakeries, pharmacies and newsagents opening for business.

Church was stopped for three minutes during which yellow ribbons were unfurled to remember the 300 Lebanese and Palestinians being held in an Israeli jail in South Lebanon.

The thud of Israeli artillery competed with cries of "Allahu Akbar" as shells landed on fields in the villages of Kfar Tebni, Frun and Ghanduriyeh.

An Israeli warplane also dropped an air-to-ground missile near 'Ain Qan, in the Iqlim Al Tufah heights, a Hizbollah stronghold.

In Beirut, President Elias Hrawi appealed to the United States and Russia to work to end the Israeli occupation, saying Lebanon had joined peace talks with Israel launched in Madrid in 1991 after receiving U.S. assurances of an Israeli withdrawal.

"We entered the talks in Madrid after receiving assurances from the United States guaranteeing our legitimate rights to the implementation of (U.N.) Resolution 425 calling for Israel's withdrawal from our occupied land unconditionally," Mr. Hrawi said.

"We beseech the sponsors of peace to fulfil their pledges so the Madrid conference does not remain an event with no aim or a headline in the archives of history," Mr. Hrawi told parliament.

After Mr. Hrawi spoke, the deputies passed a recommendation to the government to continue backing the resistance — guerrilla raids on Israeli forces in South Lebanon led by Hizbollah.

**Jordan backs Lebanese stand**

FOREIGN MINISTER Abdul Karim Al Kabarti on Tuesday sent a message of support to his Lebanese counterpart Fariz Bouez voicing Jordan's solidarity with Lebanon on the 17th anniversary of the first Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon in 1978.

The message was presented to Lebanese Ambassador in Amman William Habib in a meeting held to stress the Kingdom's support.

Mr. Kabarti's message also backed demands by Lebanon for implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, stressing the unity and integrity of Lebanese land.

He said implementing this resolution conforms with the principles of the Middle East peace process and efforts exerted to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region.

"The demands by the Lebanese brethren are legitimate and their calls to implement the principles of international legitimacy, represented in Resolution 425 in all its aspects... constitute an important element for achieving a joint and lasting peace in the region and will help progress on other tracks of the peace negotiations," Mr. Kabarti said.

# Talibans attack Rabbani forces

KABUL (Agencies) — The Afghan Taliban movement launched an infantry attack against troops loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani on the southern frontlines Tuesday, gaining a hill-top but losing a number of fighters, military sources said.

"There are at least 30 dead Taliban lying below us," pro-Rabbani commander Gul Haider told AFP.

Based on a ridge line some 15 kilometres from Kabul on the road leading to the Taliban headquarters of Charasayab, Mr. Haider was seen directing mortar fire at the Taliban.

At the same time, massive pro-Rabbani reinforcements moved up for a counter-attack.

A huge column of Russian-made T-62 and T-55 tanks, BMP armoured fighting vehicles, and truck-loads of heavily armed uniformed soldiers were seen waiting for the order to start the offensive.

Pro-Rabbani troops came under accurate small-arms and mortar fire from gunners from an opposite ridge gained in the Taliban's two-to-three-kilometre advance.

"They gained some ground but we'll push them back soon," said Mr. Haider in his bunker.

# Settlers beat Arab woman

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (R) — Jewish settlers beat a Palestinian woman who tried to prevent them from bulldozing her olive and almond trees near the occupied West Bank town of Hebron on Tuesday, Palestinians said.

They said the woman, Basma Al Jamal, 30, was injured and taken to hospital in Hebron.

Palestinians said Israeli soldiers had stood watch over the settlers, apparently from nearby Kiryat Arba settlement, as they operated their machines and did not intervene when they beat the woman.

The woman's husband, Daoud Jamal, told Reuters he was not in the area during the incident. He said that when he found out about the attack he called police forces run by Israel in the still-occupied area of the West Bank, but they ignored him.

The area is a hotbed of Jewish-Palestinian confrontation. In February 1994, settler Baruch Goldstein of Kiryat Arba shot dead more than 30 Palestinians as they prayed in Hebron's Al Ibrahim Mosque.

In a dispatch describing the slaying, Iran's state-run Islamic Republic News Agency only said the leader "attained martyrdom" on Sunday while being transported across Afghanistan.

The news agency added that the Foreign Minister in Tehran "strongly condemned" the killing of Mazar and other members of the party in a statement.

# Jordanian depositors with BCCI appeal to Major

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians who had deposits with the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) on Tuesday renewed an appeal to British Prime Minister John Major to intervene to ensure that a speedy solution is found to their dilemma.

A spokesman for the 130 depositors, whose accounts with BCCI stood at around \$100 million when the bank was taken over by European monetary authorities in July 1991, also compared the British government's handling of the BCCI fiasco with that of the Baring Bank two weeks ago and called for an end to "this discrimination."

Odeh Mashini, a Jordanian businessman speaking on behalf of a Depositors' Protection Association, said: "In the Baring case, it took the Bank of England and the British government less than 48 hours to solve the problem even without anyone guaranteeing the depositors' right."

"We recall that in the BCCI case, no one was willing to take up an offer (by the ruling family of the United Arab Emirates) to ensure the bank's continuity and protect the interests of the depositors."

In a letter addressed to Mr. Major, who arrived here Tuesday evening, and forwarded through the British ambassador in Amman, the BCCI depositors said they were the prime minister of the "suffering we are still facing since 1991 regarding our life savings."

The reason we chose a U.K. bank was due to the trust we had in the British system... said the letter, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times. "However, what happened to BCCI and the subsequent negated the assurance we were getting regarding the U.K. as being a safe haven."

The letter accused the owners and liquidators of BCCI of holding "our life savings hostage" and of "dawdling to settle the matter."

Addressing Mr. Major, the letter said: "We believe you are interested in maintaining the super status of the U.K. Therefore, please use your good offices to speed up the fair settlement process of the BCCI case... in the same professional super fast manner the Baring Bank crisis was handled and settled."

Mr. Mashini told the Jordan Times that the reasoning behind the European and British authorities rejected compromise offers to salvage the BCCI and insisted on liquidating it in 1991 was that "they decided BCCI represented Islam and Arabs and that Europe did not need such a bank."

"Little consideration was given to the fact that the man who was offering to salvage the bank was the head of state of one of the richest countries in the world and had the resources to fulfil his commitment," Mr. Mashini said, in an obvious reference to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan.

Most of the Jordanian depositors involved in the dispute were banking with BCCI branches in the United Kingdom, France and Cyprus.

"There were about 80 accounts representing 130 people and the total amount of deposits was around \$100 million," Mr. Mashini said.

Under a British deposit guarantee scheme, depositors have received 75 per cent of their deposits, but the coverage was limited to £20,000 which meant that a depositor who had £1,000 received £750 pounds, and another with £10 million received £15,000.

"This was like charity being given to refugees in emergency," said Mr. Mashini, noting that most of the Jordanian depositors had much more in their BCCI accounts than the £20,000 ceiling of the guarantee scheme.

Mr. Mashini said the BCCI settlement cases were heard in courts in Luxembourg, where the bank was registered, in Britain and in the Cayman Islands.

The main problem facing the depositors, he said, is that they are unable to file individual cases against the bank's owners. Individual cases might stand a better chance of securing their full rights.




But the legal proceedings in the case are structured in such a way that courts will accept cases only from the liquidators. "We have no choice but to follow this system since all courts tell us that we should go to the liquidators with our case," said Mr. Mashini.

A court ruling issued on Jan. 31 gave depositors 45 days to accept a settlement, which, according to Mr. Mashini, "did not spell out the percentage or any other details."

"We are afraid that the proposed settlement — of which I hear unofficially that we could be paid 20 per cent of our deposits — could be a manoeuvre that might deprive us of our rights," he said.

# Filipino mayor found guilty of rape, murder

MANILA (R) — A Manila court erupted in cheers Tuesday as a Philippine town mayor and six aides were convicted of savagely raping and murdering a female student and murdering her male companion. Calauan Mayor Antonio Sanchez and the six others were each sentenced to life in prison for the killings, which shocked the nation in 1993. They denied the charges. "I am innocent... even if lightning strikes me now," Mr. Sanchez screamed as he was led from the packed courtroom at the end of the closely watched 18-month trial. The seven were convicted of plotting the rape and murder of Eileen Gremena, 21, and the murder of Alan Gomez, 19, both students at the University of the Philippines in Los Banos, south of Manila. Mr. Sanchez, mayor of nearby Calauan, will not be eligible for parole for 30 years.

## Red Sea Shipping Agency

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